Yahoo Group Archive: lowfrequency

Yahoo Group summary: LF / VLF Hangout

These Yahoo Groups messages were archived in WARC format by ArchiveTeam in 2017. This PDF was generated by Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications from the WARC files in 2026.

Date span: 2003-12-19 through 2016-12-23

Source WARC: lowfrequency.KroNLZg.warc.gz

Source item: https://archive.org/details/yahoo-groups-2017-05-14T18-12-15Z-689ee3

Messages included in this PDF: 317

Yahoo replaced the domain portions of email addresses with @... in the archived messages. Characters lost in Yahoo's archived text appear as ?.

Messages are presented in ascending Yahoo message-ID order. Gaps indicate records absent from the source WARC or messages omitted from this PDF as spam.

1. Welcome to the new group!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2003-12-19 04:54:28 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 1 Message: 1

I'd like to thank you who have decided to become members of this LF / VLF radio group. Hopefully, we can make some connections here, exchange some information, and serve as assets to each other.

My description of the group's subject matter is WIDE. In the future, it may become necessary to split off splinter groups to keep down the confusion... at least that's my hope.

I get the feeling that there's a vast, untapped pool of talent and information out there, and that we can help each other.

As far as my own low frequency interests are concerned;

I'm a beacon hunter, and I'm currently working on experimental loop antennas for that task. I have more used PVC pipe from rejected antenna designs lying around than you could possibly believe!

Besides beacon hunting, I'm currently working on getting a LOWFER on the air (tentative frequency is 184 KHz). Stay tuned on that...

I've played a bit with active antennas, but find that I don't really care for them; they seem too vulnerable to external noise.

Ever since a college encounter with Helliwell's book WHISTLERS AND RELATED IONOSPHERIC PHENOMENON I've been fascinated by the various aspects of naturally induced radio emissions on VLF. This is an area that I haven't been working with actively for some time, but I'm getting interested in it again, spurred on by an interest in the phenomenon of Schumann Resonance.

I'm a receiver junkie here... I'm currently carrying on a serious love affair with so-called "Premium" receivers, especially those produced by Racal. If you check out the Racal equipment reviews on eHam, you'll get a pretty good idea of how serious my current infatuation IS!

As far as ham activity is concerned, I don't get on very much, but when I do it's usually on 160 metre AM or CW, and 40 and 30 metre CW.

Well... that tells you a bit about me.

Enjoy yourself on the group!

73's

Mr. T., W9LBB

2. Recent CMEs and low frequency

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2003-12-19 19:30:37 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 2 Message: 2

Greetings, Troops.

The last month or so we've seen some rather spectacular solar activity; coronal mass ejections (CMEs) that produced some pretty serious auroral displays, and made HF receivers about as useful as a soap box with a tuning dial.

The conventional wisdom (what the textbooks tell us) holds that LF isn't normally affected by auroral activity; that's a major reason that long wave range was THE spectrum of choice for serious commercial and military comms from the earliest days of radio. That being the case, when HF went down the toilet I turned to LF / VLF DXing until the magnetic storms abated.

This latest round of disruption brought home to me something that I've observed for a lot of years, but haven't really taken serious note of before. I'm wondering if anyone here can substantiate my observations.

While it seems that the textbooks are accurate in that long range (F layer) propagation is indeed not terribly disrupted by magnetic storms, I've long noted a serious increase in the noise floor that does somewhat hamper reception. i usually observe it as an increase in a stead, white noise type of hiss on frequencies from about 300 KHz downward. Observations of WWVB (60 KHz) at this particular location are a bit difficult here under normal circumstances, as I think I'm right at the first hop distance from WWVB for skywave reception, which naturally causes attenuation when both skywave and groundwave are present; but when the CME noise level came up it became VERY difficult indeed... nearly impossible at night. Even using a loop or my monster loopstick antenna, the signal, while receivable, was a mass of VERY noisy phase distortion, almost useless for anything. The main source of the noise seemed to be the aforementioned apparent increase in noise floor level.

I'm wondering... has anyone here observed this same effect during magnetic storms, or am I just imagining it's existance?

If others ARE seeing it, has anyone made any attempt to observe the level of the noise floor long term, and possibly come to any conclusions as to how much the noise level increases?

Incidentally, I've also noted an apparent decrease in whistlers and other natural VLF emissions during magnetic storms. I'm not sure if there is an actual decrease in them, or if they're being masked by this apparent increse in noise level.

Any comments?

73's,

Mr. T., W9LBB

3. A contest: the dumbest use of a WWVB receiver

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2003-12-19 19:48:42 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 3 Message: 3

Howdy!

I'm sure everyone has seen the current rash of so-called "atomic"
wall clocks, wrist watches, and the like that use a WWVB receiver
chip as the time standard. All of a sudden WWVB synced stuff seems to
be popping up everywhere, because the technology is
suddenly dirt cheap.

I have a nominee for the most gratuitous and STUPID use of WWVB in a
household product... to me, it ranks right up there with
electric toothbrushes.

When the local K-Mart closed up and they liquidated the stock, I saw
something I just HAD to get for the sheer funkiness value
(besides, it was marked 70% off!). It's use of unnecessary technology
was just plain stunning.

I got hold of a gourmet coffee maker. This beast has a microprocessor
that gathers data from a feedback loop to control the
temperature of the monster 1500 watt heating element to allegedly
give your the exactly "correct" water temperature for brewing the
perfect cup of coffee. The manual further shows that the beast can be
programmed (via a keypad) to do all sorts of fancy tricks.

The interesting part is that this high tech orchestra dedicated to
brewing a cup of Joe is conducted by a WWVB receiver chip, which
is apparently using the AC power wiring as an antenna.

If I had to do a product review on it, I'd have to say that it does
OK at making coffee... tho I've had better. The WWVB receiver seems
to have some problems tho, but that may just be due to my location
(poor WWVB coverage). It takes upwards of 10 hours for the chip
to find the WWVB signal and establish a tight enough phase lock to
turn on the neat little blue LED that indicates WWVB lock.

Anyone else seen similarly stupid applications of WWVB chips?

73's,

Mr. T., W9LBB

4. A Pilgrim's Progress toward a LOWFER beacon...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2003-12-20 20:01:04 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 4 Message: 4

Howdy, Troops.

For a very long time I've considered setting up a LOWFER beacon, and now I'm finally in a position where it's a reasonable proposition. A great many different designs have been considered and rejected over the years, all the way back to vaccuum tube transmitters. Even tho I've got a good bit of experience in dealing with 160 metre ham gear and antenna systems (dating back to the time when most commercial gear didn't even cover 160), there IS, obviously, a whole lot of difference between 1840 KHz and 184 KHz! I'd therefore like to hear from folks who have "been there and done that" on LF before I get committed to any particular design and construction ideas.

This station is being constructed from scratch. If YOU were doing it again, from that stage of construction, what would you have done differently?

Those long discarded tube designs have, of late, been reconsidered. I'd like to get comments from active LOWFER operators on the list in regard to my reasoning on this.

Wisconsin isn't an area that's particularly famous for summertime thunderstorms, tho we DO get some pretty spectacular ones at times. In light of that, it occurs to me that the power amplifier stage of a LOWFER might reasonably be designed around a tube, mainly because tubes are much more resistant to damage than solid state devices when lightning is in the area. Granted, NOTHING is going to survive a direct hit on the antenna system, but I've lost FET receiver preamps in the past when there were lightning strokes miles away.

I'm wondering... is anyone out there still using tube PA stages? If not, has anyone out there had experience with tube stages that were later replaced with solid state devices? Especially MOSFET output stages.

If so... in real world use, how do they compare in terms of damage resistance?

How do they compare in terms of overall efficiency? I realize that a class E stage done in tubes might be a bit awkward to accomplish, I suppose it IS possible. Is it worth pursuing?

Another thing to consider in transmitter design...

Years ago, it was reasonable for an experimenter in the United States to base his design strictly on a stage that would deal with the Part 15 "short form" operating parameters of one watt input and no more, period. It's possible to use other parameters based on accurate field strength measurements and the FCC's Part 15 field strength equation, but I consider the required measurement accuracy to be beyond the reasonable capabilities of the average basement tinkerer, and I discarded that idea... we're radio experimenters, not metrologists, after all.

However, the last couple of years there have been attempts by the ARRL and others to get 160 - 190 KHz allocated as an amateur band (which would allow higher transmitter powers), and there are several high power LOWFERS that are running considerable amounts of power under experimental licenses. To me, this says that eventually there WILL be permission to run higher powers on the band.

Given this, it seems reasonable to me to use a design that abandons the old 1 watt power limitation. I'm thinking that a transmitter design that can be operated efficiently at 1 watt input for the time being is reasonable, but to take advantage of possible future regulatory changes with minimum hassle, it is desirable to use a design that can produce about 20 db more power; 100 watts seems a good level to shoot for, with little or no modification to the rig. Possibly, the design could be based on a 1 watt exciter, feeding a 100 watt amplifier.

One design I have on paper right now would use two IRFP460 MOSFETS running at 24 VDC in a broadband push-pull final amplifier (class C). A drain current of 10 amps should produce 100 watts output into a 50 ohm load at 184 KHz without much problem. Much of my design philosophy for the transmitter is based on British and European amateur experiments on the 136 KHz band.

Once again, the FCC's "shake and bake" easy formula for LOWFER station parameters takes the forefront when it comes to antenna designs; 50 feet of antenna, including any transmission line used. Obviously, this doesn't leave much room for the possibility of expansion should regulations eventually be liberalized; for anything reasonable under the current rules, we're talking about a transmitter at the base of the antenna, with it's high impedance tank being used as a coupling coil to approximate a match to the antenna's feedpoint impedance; any use of transmission line to keep the transmitter itself in the shack is going to make for less efficient radiating elements in the system by reducing the permissable radiator length. This problem once again makes the FCC field strength equation for Part 15 field strength measurement methods seem attractive, but once again there are too many pitfalls in regard to ACCURATE methods of absolute field strength measurement which would pass muster in the event of a visit from the FCC.

In any event... my proposed antenna system is as follows:

I intend to place a ground mat, made of welded galvanized fencing, under the antenna. The mat shouls measure 12' by 12' (possible 16' by 16'). The corners will be arrached to ground rods (more to hold it down than anything else), and radials will extend from the corners and faces of the mat square. I'm considering the possibility of treating the ground under the mat and along the radials with "coke fly" in order to increase conductivity. Radials shouldn't be a problem... the antenna will be erected in a space aproximately 200' by 200'.

The antenna itself should start with three hefty power line insulators in the center of the mat, with the top 24 feet of a long defunct TV antenna tower mounted on top of them. From the top of this basis, I intend to go up another 18 feet with 2" aluminum irrigation pipe, which gets topped off with a capacity hat, 16 feet in diameter. This meets the FCC required total antenna length of 50 feet (the radius, not the diameter, of the capacity hat being counted as antenna length).

I'm shooting for a structure that will be sturdy enough to be self supporting without the use of guys. That may require a smaller capacity hat, counterbalanced by a longer vertical radiator.

If and when regulations get liberalized, the transmitter will move to the shack, and the base coupling coil will sport a coupling link to match 50 or 75 ohm transmission line.

Anyone have an opinion or three on this as a practical approach to the LOWFER question?

73's,

Mr. T., W9LBB
Owner & Operator of the Mahon Loomis Memorial Monitoring
Station & Irish Setter Retirement Home,
Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

5. Re: [lowfrequency] A contest: the dumbest use of a WWVB receiver

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2003-12-20 21:12:56 UTC
From: KD7JYK
Topic: 3 Message: 5

That's IS dumb! I have yet to see anything like this. I did have a design for a 10MHz WWV R-390 wristwatch but is was too bulky.

Kurt

Ross Technologies Signals Intelligence Division
Rosetta Proving Ground

----- Original Message -----

brewing a cup of Joe is conducted by a WWVB receiver chip

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

6. Low and Med

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2003-12-21 14:01:26 UTC
From: Ron
Topic: 6 Message: 6

I remember my first AM broadcast band DX. I was one of those geeky kids in the late 60's. I hung out at the local AM 2 tower directional 1 KW daytime broadcast station in a cornfield in northern Indiana. From Monday morning at 12:01 am till 5:00 am you could put your station on the air as long as you made an announcement every 5 minutes with station ID and location and the fact that your on the air for equipment and maintenance check. I never considered this station to put out a signal beyond the county line. It kicked my butt when we got a call from Arizona! That was 1KW then and look how far we've come with 1 watt now!

I've not had the best of luck with lowfer monitoring, but love to snag an NDB with my well oiled ICOM 745. I look forward to input from anyone who builds loops. Next year I will attempt a 10 by 10 PVC loop for lowfer.

I would like to put up a 510 khz beacon. I've heard a few. It seems that 510 khz is more along my dream.

I'm bookmarked and ready!

Merry Christmas!!

Ron KC8IPK

7. Re: Low and Med

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2003-12-21 20:29:51 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 6 Message: 7

Howdy, Ron.

I hear what you're saying on the AM... I now make my daily cup of thin and watery gruel as a broadcast engineer; I'm a staff engineer for Wisconsin Public Radio & Television Networks. These days I spend my time babysitting computers and automation systems, but before the move to TV I was a king on his throne; the CHIEF ENGINEER (that phrase DEMANDS the use of capital letters <<grin>>) of WHHI-FM, an unmanned, remote controlled transmitter site at Highland, Wisconsin.

I suppose the only reason they gave the most powerful FM station in the system to the New Guy was because no one else wanted to be chief of an FM that was 75 miles out of town, in the middle of nowhere. Getting called out in the middle of the night to fix it was bad enough, but driving all that distance, especially in the teeth a Wisconsin winter, is really all kinds of fun! <<grin>>

My kingdom was a 454 foot self supporting tower that carried eight bays of halo antennas over an alfalfa field. My Big Gun in the castle was an old Gates 20H3 transmitter that would never quite make the 20 kilowatts output it was rated for, no matter what I did to it. Try as I might, I was never able to make the 100 kilowatts ERP that the site was licensed for... so a few of the dairy farmers on the edges of my coverage area were deprived of our classical music that everyone played in thier milking parlors during the morning milking, just after our 5 AM sign - on.

I knew this was true... we had surveys that confirmed it, and I could even watch the incoming AC line voltage dip just a bit a few minutes after our carrier went on and the first news report ended; it was due to all of those milking machines up and down the rural power line that fed the station being switched on!

I wonder if the Arbitron people count dairy cattle as part of your audience? Do they break them down into classifications... do Holsteins like Holst, and do Jerseys like Mozart? I only know that the vast majority of my listeners had tails and udders...

One of the nice things about being The Chief... you get to deal directly with the tower riggers that keep your antennas in good shape. On one visit (to replace tower light bulbs), a fifth of Johnny Walker Red to a rigger got me a favor; on his trip up the tower he took along a 500 foot reel of stranded #10 wire, which he connected to an insulator and anchored just below the bottom bay of the FM antenna array.

The nearly vertical wire sloped down to the transmitter building, and from there was routed inside and connected to an old military surplus R-1134/WRR3 LF / VLF receiver (12 - 600 KHz) that I kept tucked away among the site's test equipment.

That prodigious vertical antenna, and that gawdawful heavy Navy receiver got me my ONLY verified receptions of LOWFERS to date.

There was a guy over in central Indiana whose CW signal used to come banging in like a ton of bricks on those nights when I was there for transmitter work after sign-off.

I'd only been curious about LOWFERS then... but hearing this guy come roaring through on ONE WATT fired my imagination. I knew that some time I'd have to get a beacon up and running too. i was living in apartments then, and it's taken a lot of years to get into a situation where a LOWFER is a possibility.

Yes, you're right... we've come a LONG way since those early experimental stations. I'm behind the power curve a good bit when it comes to modulation techniques for LOWFERS; I still tend to think in terms of a keyed CW signal. These days I'm probably hearing LOWFERS, but I don't recognize them as such, since I'm not yet using a computer to try to read the PSK signals they're sending out.

In the years since then, we've been able to receive unimaginably weak signals from spacecraft at the edges of our solar system on UHF and microwave, and on VLF / ELF the Navy's submarines have been routinely reading traffic that's buried many DB under the noise floor. LOWFERS are already using some of the same weak signal techniques, and we're going to keep on improving performance with tiny transmitters.

Let the VHF / UHF / microwave guys play thier little games... and we'll just keep playing OURS, down in radio's Bargain Basement.

73's,

Tom, W9LBB

8. The AMRAD Active LF Antenna

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2003-12-21 21:50:47 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 8 Message: 8

Howdy, Gang!

In snooping on the web last night, I encountered the AMRAD active antenna, a design I've never seen before.

I'm familiar with the older Burhans designs, and the AMRAD folks acknowledge that they used the Burhans designs as a starting point (I well remember the searchs for the hard to get J310 JFETs that Ralph loved to design around, and finding Digikey for them, the audio transformers he used were a challenge too!).

This AMRAD design is intriguing... has anyone on the list tried it? If the performance is as good as they claim, this critter would be a VERY handy addition to my LF / VLF setup.

I'm especially concerned about intermod. I've got a directional AM broadcaster practically in my back yard (I can see the towers from here). Thank Gawd the station is a daytime only; one of my LF receivers (Mackay 3021A) literally becomes useless when they're on the air; it's totally wiped out thru it's entire tuning range by religious broadcasting IMD crud. Interestingly, the Mackay is the only rig in my stable that suffers from that problem (surprising for a $7000 when new receiver that was built for professional maritime communications use).

What I DON'T need is an active antenna that will have the same problems. Some of the ones I've tried DO suffer a similar fate.

One of the worst performers in this regard that I've encountered is the low frequency converter (it has an active antenna built in) from the September 1989 issue of RADIO ELECTRONICS. It's a neat concept, really; the converter and active antenna are together in a mast mounted package and the receiver (tuning 1010 - 1550 KHz) is connected to the power supply / power inserted in the shack.

Even before moving to my current location it had SERIOUS intermod issues..

In any case... can anyone here say yea or nay to the AMRAD active? I'm seriously considering ordering a set of PC boards for it right now.

73's,

Tom, W9LBB

Owner and Operator of the Mahon Loomis
Memorial Monitoring Station

and Irish Setter Retirement Home,

Sun Prairie, Wisconsin

9. An incredible irony...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-01-02 22:28:21 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 9 Message: 9

As we all know, a few years ago we saw the passing of an era in communications; the International Telecommunications Union recognized the advances in computer technology, and dropped it's requirement for maritime radio operators to be proficient in International Morse code. Swiftly following ITU's lead, the U S Coast Guard (among most others worldwide) suspended all CW radio watches and communications services.

International Morse is a dying language, killed by computers.

It seems that the ITU did something it hasn't done in over 75 years, and probably won't ever do again; they added a new character to the recognized International Morse code set.

That new character is the @ sign, as used in E-MAIL addresses!

The new character (.--.-.) replaces spelling out the word AT (.- -). Tho longer, the @ sign character was felt to be necessary because spelling it out was causing too many errors in E-MAIL addresses sent by CW.

The paradox here is astonishing...

10. new member

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-01-13 03:55:17 UTC
From: Michael Tyler
Topic: 10 Message: 10

Hi group, thanks for letting me join the group.....i am very interested in beacons....I have a HiFer , MedFer, and a LowFer Beacon of my own....also operate a 10 meter qrp beacon. I guess I have it bad!.....mike...wa8ywo

11. Re: new member

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-01-15 03:32:27 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 10 Message: 11

Hello Michael.

Welcome to the group.

Things seem to be a bit quiet so far, but that's typical of Yahoo groups, I think.

Sounds like you're REALLY into beacon rigs there!

Just curious... have you had much problem with weather (i.e., lightning) damage taking them off the air? That's one of the big concerns I have with the LOWFER project on the drawing boards here.

73's,

Tom, W9LBB
Owner & Operator of the Mahon Loomis Memorial
Monitoring Station & Irish Setter Retirement Home

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Michael Tyler" <michaeltylerwv@y...> wrote:
> Hi group, thanks for letting me join the group......i am very
> interested in beacons....I have a HiFer , MedFer, and a LowFer
> Beacon of my own....also operate a 10 meter qrp beacon. I guess I
> have it bad!......mike...wa8ywo

12. Re: new member

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-01-15 16:31:34 UTC
From: Michael Tyler
Topic: 10 Message: 12

Hi Tom, Iusually try to shut down during the storms...cannot do much in the summertime anyway....too much static...my 10 meter got knocked out a couple times because it is located at a tower site on top of a high mountain...other than that not been to bad...we had a bad ice storm and i lost my hifer and lowfer antennas one time ...so go for it and have fun...my current project is to get another hifer beacon on....It will be solar powered and I am going to pace it on a remote mountain top in the wilderness area near here....It will be a dipole running 4.5 milliwatts......73..mike...wa8ywo--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@y...> wrote:
> Hello Michael.
>
> Welcome to the group.
>
> Things seem to be a bit quiet so far, but that's typical of Yahoo
> groups, I think.
>
> Sounds like you're REALLY into beacon rigs there!
>
> Just curious... have you had much problem with weather (i.e.,
> lightning) damage taking them off the air? That's one of the big
> concerns I have with the LOWFER project on the drawing boards here.
>
> 73's,
>
>
> Tom, W9LBB
> Owner & Operator of the Mahon Loomis Memorial
> Monitoring Station & Irish Setter Retirement Home
>
>
>
> --- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Michael Tyler"
> <michaeltylerwv@y...> wrote:
> > Hi group, thanks for letting me join the group......i am very
> > interested in beacons....I have a HiFer , MedFer, and a LowFer
> > Beacon of my own....also operate a 10 meter qrp beacon. I guess I
> > have it bad!......mike...wa8ywo

13. 510KC transmitter

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-01-16 03:21:12 UTC
From: Ron
Topic: 13 Message: 13

Hi again Tom and all,
I'm looking to put a beacon on 510kc. Can anyone point me
toward a web site with a schematic. I know there are a few beacons
on that part of the band. I've yet to hear anything. So....I'd like
to put one on the air.
And also, what great weather for the shack. Snow and cold!!
73's
Ron

14. Re: Recent CMEs and low frequency

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-03-23 13:47:04 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 2 Message: 14

Tom,

In 1967 I built a 3-transistor receiver which ran continuously at the Tacoma (WA) Amateur Astronomer's acreage. It used a couple TV horizontal hold coils to tune ~17 kHz. When the attached chart recorder showed a noise increase, it was time to check for sunspots.

Regards,

Steven

15. Re: Recent CMEs and low frequency

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-03-29 23:52:12 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 2 Message: 15

Hello Steven!

Ah... sounds like you may have come up with a winner there!
If it was me, I'd use it to start listening for whistlers!

Interesting... not too many folks use L/C stuff anymore; the current
trend seems to be to use Op Amps as filters.

If you're able to do so, a schematic of your beast could be uploaded
to the FILES section for others to use.

Mr. T.

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Steven S. Coles" <scoles@i...>
wrote:
> Tom,
>
> In 1967 I built a 3-transistor receiver which ran continuously at
> the Tacoma (WA) Amateur Astronomer's acreage. It used a couple TV
> horizontal hold coils to tune ~17 kHz. When the attached chart
> recorder showed a noise increase, it was time to check for sunspots.
>
> Regards,
>
> Steven

16. Posted a few pictures...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-03-30 01:15:20 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 16 Message: 16

Howdy, Troops!

I just got hold of a decent digital camera, and in search of subjects to learn how to use it, I decided to shoot some of my LF / VLF receivers; the shack is under major overhaul anyway, and they are, at the moment, out of thier racks / cabinets / usual places.

I didn't get ALL of them; the R389/URR is temporarily on the bench for alignment, out in the garage, and some of the older, not currently in use stuff like old RCA aircraft radios are in storage, but I got a pretty good assortment of the current crop of gear uploaded.

I obviously knew I was into LF receivers, but I didn't realize just how far the mania had gotten until I did this little census of current equipment!!!

Look in the photo section.

Mr. T.

17. Re: Recent CMEs and low frequency

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-03-30 03:18:24 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 2 Message: 17

Tom,

As I recall my receiver was inspired by, but not identical to, a VLF receiver in Popular Electronics or a similar magazine from the mid-1960s. Unfortunately, I didn't keep schematics from those years.

My memory (not very reliable) is that I used a couple transistor audio amplifier stages, but with a horizontal hold coil and a parallel capacitor in place of the collector resistor. I don't think it needed neutralization. Collector-base capacitance is probably too small to produce much feedback at 15-25 kHz. From the schematic offered at

http://203.44.53.131/TV/AWA_202C.htm

I see some TV receivers used tapped horizontal hold coils. I may have used tapped coils with the tap connecting to the next stage's base and providing a bit of impedance matching.

After the RF amplifier stages I most likely used a germanium diode detector and a DC-coupled audio amplifier to drive headphones or, much more often, the strip chart recorder.

The coils were inexpensive and available in every city's TV supply store in those days. If I find a couple appropriate coils, I'll try to recreate the receiver.

Regards,

Steven

18. VLF Sideband Demonstration

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-03-30 03:33:35 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 18 Message: 18

All,

Here's another of my lost-reference memories. It was from an electronics class laboratory manual. At VLF a resonant circuit of reasonable Q can tune to the carrier or either sideband of a 20 kHz carrier modulated with a 5 kHz sine wave while rejecting the other components.

The demonstration used a 1-transistor transmitter modulated by a signal generator and a crystal set receiver driving a micro amp meter. The crystal set tuned from 5 kHz to 30 kHz□once again using a now hard to find coil and a 3-gang 365-pF each variable capacitor with the gangs wired in parallel to make a 1095-pF variable capacitor. The purpose was to demonstrate the reality of AM sidebands.

Regards,

Steven

19. Re: VLF Sideband Demonstration

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-03-30 19:21:41 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 18 Message: 19

Hello Steven.

I seem to remember that the old AT&T transatlantic voice telephone circuit took advantage of the same principle (high Q easily attainable at low frequency).

In the 1920s when it first went into service, to more efficiently use the power they could generate at maybe 90 KHz, they used a balanced modulator or a filter to remove the carrier... but they turned it into SSB by carefully tuning the ANTENNA to act as a filter and remove one sideband!

A lot of folks are somewhat surprised to find out that SSB was being used commercially in the Roaring Twenties.

Mr. T.

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Steven S. Coles" <scoles@i...>
wrote:
> All,
>
> Here's another of my lost-reference memories. It was from an
> electronics class laboratory manual. At VLF a resonant circuit of
> reasonable Q can tune to the carrier or either sideband of a 20 kHz
> carrier modulated with a 5 kHz sine wave while rejecting the other
> components.
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> The demonstration used a 1-transistor transmitter modulated by a
> signal generator and a crystal set receiver driving a micro amp
> meter. The crystal set tuned from 5 kHz to 30 kHz□once again
using
> a now hard to find coil and a 3-gang 365-pF each variable capacitor
> with the gangs wired in parallel to make a 1095-pF variable
> capacitor. The purpose was to demonstrate the reality of AM
> sidebands.
>
> Regards,
>
> Steven

20. Re: VLF Sideband Demonstration

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-03-31 04:46:12 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 18 Message: 20

Tom,

Thank you for the information. Yes. It's a surprise to me. But it
makes perfect sense.

Regards,

Steven

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@y...> wrote:
> Hello Steven.
>
> I seem to remember that the old AT&T transatlantic voice telephone
> circuit took advantage of the same principle (high Q easily
> attainable at low frequency).
>
> In the 1920s when it first went into service, to more efficiently
use
> the power they could generate at maybe 90 KHz, they used a
balanced
> modulator or a filter to remove the carrier... but they turned it
> into SSB by carefully tuning the ANTENNA to act as a filter and
> remove one sideband!
>
> A lot of folks are somewhat surprised to find out that SSB was
being
> used commercially in the Roaring Twenties.
>
>
> Mr. T.
>

21. Argo Waterfall Display Software

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-03-31 04:54:24 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 21 Message: 21

All,

I've been having some fun with nothing more than the free Argo software, a YB400 receiver, and an 1/8" patch cable. I haven't seen any QRSS (except from a brief breadboard transmission of my own). But just watching the variety of lines displayed has some appeal.

I hope to find someone in the Puget Sound area to do some tests with before trying for any distance.

What are others here doing?

Regards,

Steven

22. Can a Regen Receive Spherics?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-04-02 03:23:34 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 22 Message: 22

Tom and All,

The question came up on my Homebrew Transistor Radio Group as to whether regenerative receivers could receive spherics. Does this work? What other methods work?

Regards,

Steven

23. Re: Can a Regen Receive Spherics?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-04-03 03:55:38 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 22 Message: 23

Well... the first whistlers I ever heard were on a regen, an old Navy surplus RAL, in the 20 KHz range (I was listening to & trying to figure out what WWVL was all about!).

I don't see a reason why a regen shouldn't work for other sferics, but I also don't see any reason for taking that approach.

Sferics are essentially in the audio range. Why go to the extra complication of designing / building a regen for that, when all you have to do is put the RF signal into an audio amplifier?

Actually, it seems to me that a regen would be inferior for listening to sferics; the bandwidth of a regen is narrower than an audio amp; it gets narrower yet as regeneration is increased.

I haven't tried it myself (not yet, anyway), but on the internet I'm seeing an awful lot of folks using thier computer sound cards, with spectrum analysis software running, to receive & watch the 0 20 KHz range. Basically, they're just plugging an antenna into the input of a sound card (tho I'd look at a few other considerations to make for better performance).

Just my thoughts on it.

Tom, W9LBB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Steven S. Coles" <scoles@i...> wrote:
> Tom and All,
>
> The question came up on my Homebrew Transistor Radio Group as to
> whether regenerative receivers could receive spherics. Does this
> work? What other methods work?
>
> Regards,
>
> Steven

24. Re: Can a Regen Receive Spherics?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-04-03 04:11:17 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 22 Message: 24

Tom,

I'm just too old school. I was thinking a regen centered on 20 kHz or so would filter out 60 & 120 Hz. I happened to have ARGO running as I read your response. I clipped the input to an indoor wire antenna. Sure enough. Odd harmonics of 60 Hz are really ugly. But what's between the bars shows up. That includes the occasional diagonal line indicating something rising in frequency. Thank you for the suggestion.

Regards,

Steven

25. Re: Can a Regen Receive Spherics?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-04-05 03:35:25 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 22 Message: 25

Tom,

A simple high-pass filter made from a 0.22 uF cap and a 2200 ohm resistor cleans up the 120 Hz and reduces overloading the sound card input. Therefore, the odd harmonics are much weaker.

I'm seeing a few chirps just above the noise, but nothing cool enough to capture yet.

Regards,

Steven

26. Re: Can a Regen Receive Spherics?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-04-06 18:29:24 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 22 Message: 26

Hello Steven.

>>>A simple high-pass filter made from a 0.22 uF cap and a 2200 ohm resistor cleans up the 120 Hz and reduces overloading the sound card input. Therefore, the odd harmonics are much weaker.<<<

Yes, harmonics of the 60 Hz AC power are a BIG problem with any sort of VLF reception... it's amazing just how high the harmonics are readable. Chasing & eliminating them is a perpetual problem.

Another problem you'll encounter is TV set horizontal oscillators at 15,734 Hz. Since the waveform isn't a sine wave, you'll see some big hairy harmonics of that one too.

I've seen some elabortate schemes to get rid of them by using a sample fed into the inverting input of an OP amp, nulling them out before they get into the receiver, but I haven't gone quite THAT far far yet. Just the same, I have done some things to knock them down at least a little.

Power line crud and TV harmonics are mainly entering most receivers thru the AC line; the TV harmonics at least aren't radiated very efficiently.

I have my trusty Icom R71A modified for LF/VLF coverage, and normally use it for DXpeditions in the boondocks, run off of a car battery. Just switching to battery power is a BIG help in eliminating these problems.

Unfortunately, my best receiving gear doesn't leave the shack, and even if it did it's not practical to power it directly from batteries. Other measures are needed.

I have a military surplus gasoline generator that I occasionally use (rarely tho... it's big, heavy, and noisy). At 4 KVA, it'll power most any equipment that I might want to run in the field, and it's as isolated from the AC line as a battery would be.

For home reception tho, I take a different approach.

I lucked out on a dumpster dive, and got hold of a big AC isolation transformer meant for hospital use.

Medical folks don't like leakage current from stray AC fields going thru somebody they're trying to do an EEG or EKG on; the hum messes up everything, not to mention the possibility of accidental electric shock if something in thier equipment fails. Thus, they use these transformers.

The transformer breaks up ground loops, eliminating a LOT of AC power line harmonic noise. To reduce leakage currents caused by capacitive coupling between transformer windings, they arrange the windings to reduce said coupling to a minimum, plus add a copper shield BETWEEN the windings which gets tied to ground. That causes a reduction in the TV horizontal crud very nicely; without the transformer, my TV noise level goes up about 40 DB.

A warning about using big transformers like this:

If there's an AC power outage, even momentary, the magnetic field around the transformer collapses and generates a NASTY spike of "back EMF" voltage. The bigger the transformer, the bigger the spike. I may be overly paranoid about this, but IMHO the spike might well take out solid state devices.

To guard against this problem, BOTH SIDES of the isolation transformer are fitted with MOV spike suppressors (rated 130 VAC); one across each winding, and one each from each winding end to ground.

Just because I had it around at the time, the incoming AC line to the transformer is also going thru a HUGE RF filter, one of the packaged "brick" filters that they use in professional computer equipment to keep down the power line RF radiation from it.

After adding a small conduit box with a switch and a fuse, this thing got stuck in the bottom of an equipment rack & tied to the station ground (NOT the AC power ground!), and it provides relatively clean power to a "receiver only" AC power buss. To complete the job, I added a seperate "receiver only" grounding buss that goes directly to the station ground... along with the power cord ground wire in the AC power buss.

I haven't whipped ALL of the power line noise & harmonic problems here but I've improved the situation somewhat, and it wasn't really that difficult.

I've considered going into receiver power supplies to add bypass caps at the rectifiers to try to kill 120 Hz harmonics there, but I have not decided if it's worth the trouble, or even if it would be at all effective.

Mr. T,
W9LBB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Steven S. Coles" <scoles@i...>
wrote:
> Tom,
>
> A simple high-pass filter made from a 0.22 uF cap and a 2200 ohm
> resistor cleans up the 120 Hz and reduces overloading the sound
card
> input. Therefore, the odd harmonics are much weaker.

>
> I'm seeing a few chirps just above the noise, but nothing cool
> enough to capture yet.
>
> Regards,
>
> Steven

27. LF Loop Antennas

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-04-06 22:42:14 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 27 Message: 27

I was out shooting pictures again, and today I added a few shots to the photo section of something I came into a while back.

EVERY LF / VLF has a loop antenna of some sort; so do AM BCB DXers for that matter. One of the things I'm into is building my own (and tearing them apart again) in search of the perfect DXing loop.

This isn't it... not by a long shot. However, it works quite well for many purposes, and it's sort of a scarce critter these days.

During WW2, Bendix made the DU-1 and DU-2 aircraft loop for military use, mainly for two place airplanes with plastic canopies like the North American AT-6 "Texan" trainer. They used it for shooting D/F bearings on NDBs and AM broadcast stations. It has a tuning range of 190 to 1500 KHz in three bands. As near as I can tell it was meant for use with the Bendix RU aircraft receiver, and some versions of the SCR-274N "Command" receivers.

I was lucky enough to find one in apparently unissued condition a few years back, complete with the aircraft mounting plate and the power connector. There aren't too many of these left intact, and I've had one aircraft restorer try repeatedly to buy it for his Texan.

I have modified it, but CAREFULLY... it CAN be restored to it's original condition if necessary. Total mods consist of changing the antenna connector to an SO-239 (threaded body type, so no extra holes drilled to mount it), and adding a 50 ohm resistor across the antenna connector to present a reasonable load impedance to the receiver (the RU and SCR-274N are high impedance inputs).

The DU loops do a creditable job; inside of the coupler box is a two stage RF amplifier / preselector (6SK7 tubes), but they don't really compare to a LARGE aperture loop with an FET preamplifier. There's only so much that a 12" shielded loop can do at LF.

Despite that, and despite the fact that these loops need filiment and B+ supplies, they're a very handy item to have around. If you guys should happen to encounter one cheap, I'd say GRAB IT!

Mr. T., W9LBB

28. Re: Can a Regen Receive Spherics?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-04-07 03:27:38 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 22 Message: 28

Tom,

I'm in the medical device development business. Medical instruments have increasingly gone over to doing the isolation inside the switch-mode power supplies. So outside of dumpsters those 60 Hz isolation transformers are getting rare. Glad you are lucky enough to have one.

Like yours, my receiver's much quieter on batteries. I'm seeing hash from monitors and computers on a number of frequencies between 160 and 190 kHz. Some folks claim to get partial reverse-TVI nulling by rotating their loop and adjusting preamp gain. Maybe.

I'm tempted to build an H-field loop that will fit through my door with about 1 cm to spare. It will have to serve for transmitting, too.

So far I'm having so much fun with simple stuff I haven't assembled a serious transmitter, antenna, preamp, or much of anything. Last night I just watched ARGO as my daughter's on lamp flasher design turned a few mW oscillator on and off.

Regards,

Steven

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@y...> wrote:
> Hello Steven.
>
> Yes, harmonics of the 60 Hz AC power are a BIG problem with any sort
> of VLF reception... it's amazing just how high the harmonics are
> readable. Chasing & eliminating them is a perpetual problem.
>
> Another problem you'll encounter is TV set horizontal oscillators at
> 15,734 Hz. Since the waveform isn't a sine wave, you'll see some big
> hairy harmonics of that one too.
>
> I've seen some elabortate schemes to get rid of them by using a
> sample fed into the inverting input of an OP amp, nulling them out
> before they get into the receiver, but I haven't gone quite THAT far
> far yet. Just the same, I have done some things to knock them down
> at least a little.
>

> Power line crud and TV harmonics are mainly entering most receivers
> thru the AC line; the TV harmonics at least aren't radiated very
> efficiently.
>
> I have my trusty Icom R71A modified for LF/VLF coverage, and
normally
> use it for DXpeditions in the boondocks, run off of a car battery.
> Just switching to battery power is a BIG help in eliminating these
> problems.
>
> Unfortunately, my best receiving gear doesn't leave the shack, and
> even if it did it's not practical to power it directly from
batteries.
> Other measures are needed.
>
> I have a military surplus gasoline generator that I occasionally
use
> (rarely tho... it's big, heavy, and noisy). At 4 KVA, it'll power
> most any equipment that I might want to run in the field, and it's
> as isolated from the AC line as a battery would be.
>
> For home reception tho, I take a different approach.
>
> I lucked out on a dumpster dive, and got hold of a big AC isolation
> transformer meant for hospital use.
>
> Medical folks don't like leakage current from stray AC fields going
> thru somebody they're trying to do an EEG or EKG on; the hum messes
> up everything, not to mention the possibility of accidental
electric
> shock if something in thier equipment fails. Thus, they use these
> transformers.
>
> The transformer breaks up ground loops, eliminating a LOT of AC
power
> line harmonic noise. To reduce leakage currents caused by
capacitive
> coupling between transformer windings, they arrange the windings to
> reduce said coupling to a minimum, plus add a copper shield BETWEEN
> the windings which gets tied to ground. That causes a reduction in
the
> TV horizontal crud very nicely; without the transformer, my TV
noise
> level goes up about 40 DB.
>
>
> A warning about using big transformers like this:
>
> If there's an AC power outage, even momentary, the magnetic field
> around the transformer collapses and generates a NASTY spike

of "back
> EMF" voltage. The bigger the transformer, the bigger the spike. I
may
> be overly paranoid about this, but IMHO the spike might well take
out
> solid state devices.
>
> To guard against this problem, BOTH SIDES of the isolation
transformer
> are fitted with MOV spike suppressors (rated 130 VAC); one across
each
> winding, and one each from each winding end to ground.
>
> Just because I had it around at the time, the incoming AC line to
the
> transformer is also going thru a HUGE RF filter, one of the
packaged
> "brick" filters that they use in professional computer equipment to
> keep down the power line RF radiation from it.
>
> After adding a small conduit box with a switch and a fuse, this
thing
> got stuck in the bottom of an equipment rack & tied to the station
> ground (NOT the AC power ground!), and it provides relatively clean
> power to a "receiver only" AC power buss. To complete the job, I
added
> a seperate "receiver only" grounding buss that goes directly to the
> station ground... along with the power cord ground wire in the AC
> power buss.
>
> I haven't whipped ALL of the power line noise & harmonic problems
here
> but I've improved the situation somewhat, and it wasn't really that
> difficult.
>
> I've considered going into receiver power supplies to add bypass
caps
> at the rectifiers to try to kill 120 Hz harmonics there, but I have
> not decided if it's worth the trouble, or even if it would be at
all
> effective.
>
>
> Mr. T,
> W9LBB
>
>
>

29. HiFER

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-04-08 20:18:24 UTC
From: KD7JYK
Topic: 29 Message: 29

Getting closer, I ordered Didgkey parts today. :-) I still haven't heard from K1EL yet, will have to send out more e-mail :-(

Kurt

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

30. Re: [lowfrequency] HiFER

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-04-09 14:43:01 UTC
From: Bob Zyskowski
Topic: 29 Message: 30

Hi Kurt,

I missed something here, what are you working on?

Bob in Utica NY
----- Original Message -----
From: KD7JYK<mailto:kd7jyk@...>
To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com<mailto:lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 08, 2004 4:18 PM
Subject: [lowfrequency] HiFER

Getting closer, I ordered Didgkey parts today. :-) I still haven't heard from K1EL yet, will have to send out more e-mail :-(

Kurt

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

How LOW can your rig GO?

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Yahoo! Groups Links

a.. To visit your group on the web, go to:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lowfrequency/<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lowfrequency/>

b.. To unsubscribe from this group, send an email to:
lowfrequency-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com<mailto:lowfrequency-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com?subject=Unsubscribe>

c.. Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to the Yahoo! Terms of Service<http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/>.

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

31. Re: [lowfrequency] HiFER

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-04-09 15:54:04 UTC
From: KD7JYK
Topic: 29 Message: 31

I sent this to the wrong list. It was meant to go to lowfer@... where we also work on medium and high frequency beacons. I am setting up a Part 15 beacon around 13,555 KC. There are a couple dozen of us on 13, the beacon HI can be heard on 13,558 KC CW most every morning. For me that is about 2,900 miles with HI running only a couple mW! The link below has two photos and below that is a description of the photos and some beacon details:

http://w4dex.com/gallery/Kurt-Rudolph-KD7JYK

The first is the location of my future HiFER beacon. This is a one acre corral that is perfect.

The second is more of a "technology demonstrator". While trying to think of the most rugged way to design a 1/4 wave 13 MHz whip, I realized it is also the perfect design for a rotatable dipole to get back on HF!!!! The mast in this photo is a 21' length of 1 5/8" chainlinkn fence toprail. It is guyed about 9.5' and 19'. It is slid over a foundation stake and bushing and anchored with 24" long foundation stakes.

The HiFER antenna will be the same design, non-rotating, better insulted with ground plane added and tuned to 13,555 KHz. The transmitter box will be mounted at the base with a beehive insulator and short wire jumpers to the antenna and ground. There will also be a 434 MHz wireless thermometer in the case with a 1/4 wave antenna mounted outside. All the electronics will be well insulated in no less than 3" of foam/aluminized mylar and small heaters may be installed on critical components. The beacon and thermometer will be power by a gelcell and solar panel.

ID has yet to be determined.

Detailed technical questions welcome.

Kurt

----- Original Message -----
From: Bob Zyskowski

I missed something here, what are you working on?

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

32. Re: HiFER

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-04-09 18:03:08 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 29 Message: 32

Howdy!

>>> I sent this to the wrong list. It was meant to go to lowfer@m...
where we also work on medium and high frequency beacons. I am
setting up a Part 15 beacon around 13,555 KC. <<<

Not a problem! The technology here is interesting... and a WHOLE lot
easier than winding a loading coil for 160 - 190 KHz! <<grin>>

Mr. T.

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "KD7JYK" <kd7jyk@r...> wrote:
> I sent this to the wrong list. It was meant to go to lowfer@m...
where we also work on medium and high frequency beacons. I am
setting up a Part 15 beacon around 13,555 KC. There are a couple
dozen of us on 13, the beacon HI can be heard on 13,558 KC CW most
every morning. For me that is about 2,900 miles with HI running only
a couple mW! The link below has two photos and below that is a
description of the photos and some beacon details:
>
> http://w4dex.com/gallery/Kurt-Rudolph-KD7JYK
>
> The first is the location of my future HiFER beacon. This is a one
acre
> corral that is perfect.
>
> The second is more of a "technology demonstrator". While trying to
think of
> the most rugged way to design a 1/4 wave 13 MHz whip, I realized it
is also
> the perfect design for a rotatable dipole to get back on HF!!!!
The mast in
> this photo is a 21' length of 1 5/8" chainlinkn fence toprail. It
is guyed
> about 9.5' and 19'. It is slid over a foundation stake and bushing
and
> anchored with 24" long foundation stakes.
>
> The HiFER antenna will be the same design, non-rotating, better
insulted
> with ground plane added and tuned to 13,555 KHz. The transmitter
box will
> be mounted at the base with a beehive insulator and short wire
jumpers to the
> antenna and ground. There will also be a 434 MHz wireless
thermometer in

> the case with a 1/4 wave antenna mounted outside. All the
electronics will
> be well insulated in no less than 3" of foam/aluminized mylar and
small
> heaters may be installed on critical components. The beacon and
thermometer
> will be power by a gelcell and solar panel.
>
> ID has yet to be determined.
>
> Detailed technical questions welcome.
>
>
>
> Kurt
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Bob Zyskowski
>
> I missed something here, what are you working on?
>
>
> [Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

33. Carribean radio station

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-04-11 20:28:41 UTC
From: eric zelaya
Topic: 33 Message: 33

Is their a Carribean Longwave station between 150 and 360KHz?

34. Re: Carribean radio station

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-04-11 20:37:26 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 33 Message: 34

Hello Eric.

>>Is their a Carribean Longwave station between 150 and 360KHz?<<

If you mean a broadcaster, no... there shouldn't be, at least.

Long wave AM broadcasting isn't allocated in the western hemisphere
by the ITU. The allocation calls for maritime comms and navigation
systems.

Mr. T.

35. Re: [lowfrequency] Re: Carribean radio station

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-04-11 20:56:58 UTC
From: rib barbeque
Topic: 33 Message: 35

--- Tom Adams <w9lbb@...> wrote:
> Hello Eric.
>
> >>Is their a Carribean Longwave station between 150
> and 360KHz?<<
>
> If you mean a broadcaster, no... there shouldn't
> be, at least.
>
> Long wave AM broadcasting isn't allocated in the
> western hemisphere
> by the ITU. The allocation calls for maritime comms
> and navigation
> systems.
>
>
>
> Mr. T.
>
>
> Maybe it was interference? I have a Grundig
transistor satellite 5000 And sometimes i do get
interference from the local AM stations, but last time
i checked there was no carribean AM station in orlando
florida, also, it wasnt propogation because it was 12
0 clock in the afternoon.
73, Eric
>
>
>
>
>
>

=====

Do you Yahoo!?
Yahoo! Tax Center - File online by April 15th
http://taxes.yahoo.com/filing.html

36. LF / VLF Memoribilia

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-04-15 18:44:55 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 36 Message: 36

Howdy, Troops!

One thing I do here is collect LF / VLF station memorabilia, and today I decided to change the picture on the group header to show a REALLY odd bit of the collection.

The item shown is either a wall plaque or a fancy door handle from NWC, the old U S Navy VLF station at Harold E. Holt, Australia. It's heyday ran from WW2 to the early '90s. The callsign was NWC, and the station ran something like 1,000,000 on a frequency below 20 KHz.

BTW... the station's location (Harold E. Holt) was apparently named after an Australian politician (Prime minister???) who vanished while surfing in the area in the 1960s.

It's a heavy bronze casting, about 6" in diameter. From the wear on it's surface, I suspect that it was a door handle.

As near as I can tell from a web search, NWC was turned over to the Royal Australian Navy, who converted a large part of the station's grounds into a nature preserve.

The mysterious part of this artifact...

It showed up on EBAY, from a seller in Indiana!!! One just HAS to wonder HOW the hell it got THERE!!!

Strictly conjecture on my part... an American sailor decided to take along a soveneir of his Aussie duty station when he transferred out. I can just imagine a midnight commando raid (probably drunken) with an open ended wrench to grab the prize!

Thought you guys might find it amusing. If there's any interest, in the coming weeks I'll post pictures of some of the more oddball VLF related stuff in my collection.

73's,

Tom, W9LBB

37. More VLF Memoribilia

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-04-25 09:44:54 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 37 Message: 37

Howdy, Troops.

The military is very big on "morale". When it suits them, the brass at most installations will go to extremes to (hopefully) make the troops happy, even if they (A) DON'T, and (B) are somewhat silly.

One of the favorite morale boosters (?) is various types of "Attaboy" awards... essentially impressive but totally useless, presented to the "Whatever of the Month" at a formal ceremony (the preparations for which usually are such a hassle for the OTHER, nonrecipient troops that it lowers THIER morale!).

It's usually in the form of a fancy certificate, or if there's enough in the kitty, a wall plaque. That's what we have here.

The item shown was once again obtained from the World's Overloaded Closet, EBAY. It's an "Attaboy" plaque from Naval Radio Station NAA, located at Cutler, Maine. The small brass plate under the medallion shows that it was presented to RM1 (Radioman 1st Class) L. D. Smith, for the time period July 1970 to June 1971... he was probably the Blown Pilot Lamp Changer of the Year, or something like that.

NAA has been on several VLF frequencies over the years, all below 20 KHz. When first opened in the 1960s, it ran CW telegraphy and RTTY to the Atlantic fleet. Today, it runs encrypted MSK teletypewriter signals using 60 Hz shift.

If there's one word that describes NAA, it's got to be HUGE. The transmitter is a mongo old Continental that cranks out over one MILLION watts, and the antenna system is obviously HUMONGOUS.

At the time it was built / commissioned, NAA was allegedly the most powerful radio station on earth... and the medallion on the plaque states that in no uncertain terms.

In addition to covering the Atlantic, NAA sent a pretty decent signal across the continental US; when I was learning code for my General license, I had an old RAL receiver that tuned in NAA's flamethrower signal at something like 18 KHz. It provided me with 5 letter coded group CW at about 16 WPM, 24 hours a day.

The group's front page photo is the best I was able to shoot of the plaque.

An item like this makes you wonder... WHO was L. D. Smith? Where is he today, and did he stay in communications?

Unfortunately, if he sees this and wants his award back, he's out of luck... this is an extremely scarce collectable, and I won't let go of it! <<grin>>

73's,

Tom, W9LBB

38. Universal Part-15 Calling Frequency Proposed

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-06-13 17:50:23 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 38 Message: 38

All,

QRPBear has suggested a universal calling frequency for finding other Part-15 operators. His selection is:

FRS channel 8 with CTCSS tone #21.

His explanation appears below. While FRS is not Part-15, $40 and a trip to an FRS sale gets you on the calling frequency while leaving most of your time and debit card for the Part-15 band and application you have your heart in.

Your comments please.

Comments are also welcome at:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LUTT/

Regards,

Steven

Steve,

Channel 8, CTCSS tone #21 (131.8 Hz).

Channel 8 is the lowest of the 467 MHz FRS frequencies... I chose the 467 MHz range because of better tx antenna efficiency.

CTCSS tone #21 at 131.8 is far enough removed from AC power line harmonics and mixing products of them to be immune from "falsing" due to that kind of thing. It has a high enough pitch that it does not impart a "growly" character to the audio and pitched low enough that it should be inaudible.

73,

'Bear' NH7SR

39. An unusual hunk of equipment

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-07-05 18:30:12 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 39 Message: 39

Hello Troops.

On the hamfest trail I recently came into an oddball bit of LF/VLF equipment that I want to get working if I can.

This thing is a LORAN-C Monitor, built for the Dept. of Transportation / Federal Aviation Administration. Unfortunately, no manuals came with it, so getting it going at all, let alone making mods to use it as a LORAN based frequency standard is going to be a challenge. It was built by Frontier Engineering Inc., Stillwater OK.

It's a rack mounted package, 3 units high and VERY deep. It's a microprocessor based gizmo.

So far, we've determined that it contains two 100 KHz receiver cards and uses a remotely powered active antenna. I'm working on the issue of an antenna; I have one that SHOULD work, but there are problems with oddball connectors which must be replaced. It also needs the replacement of 24 volts worth of gel cell memory floater batteries.

The microprocessor board appears to run, tho I have no idea how to program it or change parameters as yet. It appears to be currently set up to look at the USCG LORAN-C station at Boise City, Oklahoma.

If, by any odd chance, anyone out there has some technical information on this box, I'd appreciate it if you'd E-mail me. I'm going to try to get some data from the manufacturer (they've got a web page up), but I doubt that will be successful.

73's,

Mr. T.

40. Jackson Harbor Low Frequency Up Converter Kit

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-07-24 19:15:28 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 40 Message: 40

All,

Yesterday a Jackson Harbor Low Frequency up converter kit arrived. As I had not checked my mail for a couple days, I'm not sure exactly, but it took no more than 6 days from order to kit arrival.

The builder needs to add input, output, and battery connectors, a 12-volt source, and a shielded case (such as an Altoids tin). I suggest Radio Shack 276-1381 10mm standoffs, too. The manual, schematic, and completed board photograph down load from the Jackson Harbor web site. (Would have been a good thing for me to do before receiving the kit. As things stand I might read the directions some day.) The only assembly possible difficulty might be solder bridging the close-spaced traces. Even with oversized solder, poor light, and old eyes I avoided a bridge.

Having selected the 14 MHz crystal for the local oscillator, as I built the kit it converts about 25□300 kHz to 14.025-14.300 for reception on my Drake 2B's 20 meter band. The up converter worked as soon as power was applied and needs only (sort of optional) adjustment to get the local oscillator on frequency. The local oscillator adjustment cap is enough different from my non-metallic screwdrivers that I had to use a metal screwdriver. Even so, no frequency pulling was heard□surprising at 14 MHz.

The frequency guide in the manual and the WAV files at the Jackson Harbor site make initial station identification easy. At this location using a mini-octoloop antenna, 25 kHz clattery (possibly military), 60 kHz (probably WWVB), 100 kHz (LORAN), and 110 kHz & 116 kHz (probably airport non-directional beacons□NDBs) were heard about dusk and still into daylight today.

http://jacksonharbor.home.att.net/lfconv.htm

73,

Steven

41. RE: [lowfrequency] Jackson Harbor Low Frequency Up Converter Kit

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-07-24 19:13:32 UTC
From: Bow
Topic: 40 Message: 41

Hello Steven and the group,

Thank you for the outstanding Review!

I JUST ordered this kit yesterday and I am looking forward to building if and hooking it up, even though I may modify it to extend the range up closer to 500 kHz.

Thanks for the good news.

Bow
KD5KZN

-----Original Message-----
From: Steven S. Coles [mailto:scoles@...]
Sent: Saturday, July 24, 2004 14:15
To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [lowfrequency] Jackson Harbor Low Frequency Up Converter Kit

All,

Yesterday a Jackson Harbor Low Frequency up converter kit arrived. As I had not checked my mail for a couple days, I'm not sure exactly, but it took no more than 6 days from order to kit arrival.

The builder needs to add input, output, and battery connectors, a 12-volt source, and a shielded case (such as an Altoids tin). I suggest Radio Shack 276-1381 10mm standoffs, too. The manual, schematic, and completed board photograph down load from the Jackson Harbor web site. (Would have been a good thing for me to do before receiving the kit. As things stand I might read the directions some day.) The only assembly possible difficulty might be solder bridging the close-spaced traces. Even with oversized solder, poor light, and old eyes I avoided a bridge.

Having selected the 14 MHz crystal for the local oscillator, as I built the kit it converts about 25-300 kHz to 14.025-14.300 for reception on my Drake 2B's 20 meter band. The up converter worked as soon as power was applied and needs only (sort of optional) adjustment to get the local oscillator on frequency. The local oscillator adjustment cap is enough different from my non-metallic screwdrivers that I had to use a metal screwdriver. Even so, no frequency pulling was heard-surprising at 14 MHz.

The frequency guide in the manual and the WAV files at the Jackson Harbor site make initial station identification easy. At this location using a mini-octoloop antenna, 25 kHz clattery (possibly

military), 60 kHz (probably WWVB), 100 kHz (LORAN), and 110 kHz &
116 kHz (probably airport non-directional beacons-NDBs) were heard
about dusk and still into daylight today.

HYPERLINK
"http://jacksonharbor.home.att.net/lfconv.htm"http://jacksonharbor.home.att.
net/lfconv.htm

73,

Steven

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oups/S=1705063108:HM/EXP=1090782987/A=2128215/R=0/SIG=10se96mf6/*http://comp
anion.yahoo.com"click here
HYPERLINK
"http://us.adserver.yahoo.com/l?M=295196.4901138.6071305.3001176/D=groups/S=
:HM/A=2128215/rand=201225488"

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Outgoing mail is certified Virus Free.
Checked by AVG anti-virus system (http://www.grisoft.com).
Version: 6.0.726 / Virus Database: 481 - Release Date: 7/22/2004

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

42. Re: [lowfrequency] Jackson Harbor Low Frequency Up Converter Kit

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-07-25 09:46:51 UTC
From: ve3fxq
Topic: 40 Message: 42

Greetings and a question....

This will be a somewhat silly question to ask but when can you tell me how to you if you are actually hearing vlf signals? For example are there any obvious signals to use to confirm that you upconverter is actually working?

Larry .... looking at getting on 137 khz...

Larry

----- Original Message -----
From: Steven S. Coles
To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, July 24, 2004 3:15 PM
Subject: [lowfrequency] Jackson Harbor Low Frequency Up Converter Kit

All,

Yesterday a Jackson Harbor Low Frequency up converter kit arrived. As I had not checked my mail for a couple days, I'm not sure exactly, but it took no more than 6 days from order to kit arrival.

The builder needs to add input, output, and battery connectors, a 12-volt source, and a shielded case (such as an Altoids tin). I suggest Radio Shack 276-1381 10mm standoffs, too. The manual, schematic, and completed board photograph down load from the Jackson Harbor web site. (Would have been a good thing for me to do before receiving the kit. As things stand I might read the directions some day.) The only assembly possible difficulty might be solder bridging the close-spaced traces. Even with oversized solder, poor light, and old eyes I avoided a bridge.

Having selected the 14 MHz crystal for the local oscillator, as I built the kit it converts about 25-300 kHz to 14.025-14.300 for reception on my Drake 2B's 20 meter band. The up converter worked as soon as power was applied and needs only (sort of optional) adjustment to get the local oscillator on frequency. The local oscillator adjustment cap is enough different from my non-metallic screwdrivers that I had to use a metal screwdriver. Even so, no frequency pulling was heard-surprising at 14 MHz.

The frequency guide in the manual and the WAV files at the Jackson Harbor site make initial station identification easy. At this location using a mini-octoloop antenna, 25 kHz clattery (possibly military), 60 kHz (probably WWVB), 100 kHz (LORAN), and 110 kHz & 116 kHz (probably airport non-directional beacons-NDBs) were heard about dusk and still into daylight today.

http://jacksonharbor.home.att.net/lfconv.htm

73,

Steven

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a.. To visit your group on the web, go to:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lowfrequency/

b.. To unsubscribe from this group, send an email to:
lowfrequency-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

c.. Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to the Yahoo! Terms of Service.

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

43. Re: Jackson Harbor Low Frequency Up Converter Kit

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-07-25 20:40:07 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 40 Message: 43

Larry,

Actually the question is not that silly. I was seriously asking myself the same question last week in regard to my CA3054 up converter.

There are lots of possibilities for mixing products: Harmonics of the local oscillator +/- the receiver frequency. Two signals separated by the receiver frequency. The receiver's local oscillator or BFO feeding back into the converter and acting as a local oscillator. Any and all could produce appearant LF signals where none exist.

I'm pretty green in LF, but here's what I tried:

To check for non-converted feed through turn off the converter and connect the antenna directly to the receiver.

Write down the frequencies of strong received signals. Change the local oscillator crystal. True LF and VLF signals will always have the same frequency offset from the local oscillator crystal. Likewise, a signal converted to 100 kHz about the local oscillator will also be found 100 kHz below the local oscillator. (Also, check that your receive picks up the local oscillator on the expected frequency.)

Hook a short wire to an oscillator in the input frequency range (25 ☐ 300 kHz for the Jackson Harbor converter). It should be heard on the expected frequency. The signal should disappear when the oscillator is turned off. I use the low-frequency crystal oscillator and the Wien bridge oscillator Ramon describes at

http://cidtel.inictel.gob.pe/Publicaciones.htm

Do the presumed distant LF signals come in strongest when LF propagation should be best.

Compare what you hear with .WAV and .MPG files at various LF & VLF web sites.

I haven't tried this one yet, but when using a loop antenna an LF signal should peak when the loop is tuned to the signal's frequency.

Regards,

Steven

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "ve3fxq" <ve3fxq@r...> wrote:
> Greetings and a question....
>
> This will be a somewhat silly question to ask but when can you tell me how to you if you are actually hearing vlf signals? For example are there any obvious signals to use to confirm that you upconverter is actually working?
>
> Larry .... looking at getting on 137 khz...
>
> Larry
>

44. Playing with Wien Bridge Transmitter & BBB-4 VLF Receiver

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-08-04 02:53:05 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 44 Message: 44

All,

With some voltage amplification following Ing. Ramón Vargas Patrón's one-potentiometer Wien bridge oscillator, my BBB-4 VLF receiver picks up the signal very well in an across apartment test.

To the best of my knowledge the FCC allows almost anything in the way of power and antennas below 9,000 Hz. I don't think VLF's communications range would be very great with reasonable amplifiers and antennas. But it's something to play with when the natural radio sources aren't doing much.

Ramón's Wien bridge schematic diagram can be found under "Wien-Bridge Oscillator has Simplified Frequency Control" at

http://cidtel.inictel.gob.pe/Publicaciones.htm

Stephen P. McGreevy's BBB-4 (Bare Bones Basic) Natural VLF Radio Receiver Schematic can be found at

http://www.amasci.com/amateur/bbb4b.html

Regards,

Steven

45. Re: Jackson Harbor Low Frequency Up Converter Kit

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-08-28 01:23:59 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 40 Message: 45

Not a silly question at all.

Practically every LF / VLF converter I've ever tried has some IF signal feedthru, not to mention intermod birdies from strong local (usually AM broadcast) signals.

Just about everybody has some "signpost" LF signals that confirm the converter is working. The most obvious is the nondirectional beacon (NDB) at your local airport, and from airports in the area, in the 190 - 520 KHz range.

On a larger scale, at 100 KHz you have the chattering of LORAN-C signals, and the WWVB signal at 60 KHz.

Below that, you have the high power Naval RTTY stations... in the area of 20 - 26 KHz, there are a number of them.

The REAL trick tho is determining which signals are legitimate, and which are leakage thru the converter in the tunable IF frequency range. Sometimes, that can be a bit tricky to determine.

On that issue, it can be a great help to add a low pass filter in front of the converter (to attenuate signals in the tunable IF range before they can leak through).

Mr. T.

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "ve3fxq" <ve3fxq@r...> wrote:
> Greetings and a question....
>
> This will be a somewhat silly question to ask but when can you tell me how to you if you are actually hearing vlf signals? For example are there any obvious signals to use to confirm that you upconverter is actually working?
>
> Larry .... looking at getting on 137 khz...
>
> Larry

46. Re: Jackson Harbor Low Frequency Up Converter Kit

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-08-28 23:57:03 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 40 Message: 46

Tom,

Thank you for the additional information.

I always feel a little cheated when I answer a question and the board I answered on goes quiet as if nobody had fresh viewpoints or anything to teach me.

Best regards,

Steven

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@y...> wrote:
> Not a silly question at all.
>
> Practically every LF / VLF converter I've ever tried has some IF
> signal feedthru, not to mention intermod birdies from strong local
> (usually AM broadcast) signals.
>
> Just about everybody has some "signpost" LF signals that confirm
the
> converter is working. The most obvious is the nondirectional beacon
> (NDB) at your local airport, and from airports in the area, in the
> 190 - 520 KHz range.
>
> On a larger scale, at 100 KHz you have the chattering of LORAN-C
> signals, and the WWVB signal at 60 KHz.
>
> Below that, you have the high power Naval RTTY stations... in the
> area of 20 - 26 KHz, there are a number of them.
>
> The REAL trick tho is determining which signals are legitimate, and
> which are leakage thru the converter in the tunable IF frequency
> range. Sometimes, that can be a bit tricky to determine.
>
> On that issue, it can be a great help to add a low pass filter in
> front of the converter (to attenuate signals in the tunable IF
> range before they can leak through).
>
>
> Mr. T.
>
>
>
>
>

> --- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "ve3fxq" <ve3fxq@r...> wrote:
> > Greetings and a question....
> >
> > This will be a somewhat silly question to ask but when can you
> tell me how to you if you are actually hearing vlf signals? For
> example are there any obvious signals to use to confirm that you
> upconverter is actually working?
> >
> > Larry .... looking at getting on 137 khz...
> >
> > Larry

47. Uploading to Files Area

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-08-31 07:29:45 UTC
From: Michael Hebert
Topic: 47 Message: 47

Tom,

I have created a direct conversion receiver application for Spectrum Labs that I would like to upload to the Files Area. Unfortunately I do not have access to it for File or Folder addition. Can you clear me for uploading?

73,

'Bear' NH7SR

48. Re: Uploading to Files Area

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-09-30 22:54:52 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 47 Message: 48

Hello Bear.

Will do.

Sorry if I haven't been attending to the group too reliably lately;
had a personal emergency going.

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Michael Hebert" <qrpbear@y...>
wrote:
> Tom,
>
> I have created a direct conversion receiver application for
Spectrum
> Labs that I would like to upload to the Files Area. Unfortunately
I
> do not have access to it for File or Folder addition. Can you
clear
> me for uploading?
>
> 73,
>
> 'Bear' NH7SR

49. E-Field Probe Antenna

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-10-25 21:33:17 UTC
From: kc0lwn
Topic: 49 Message: 49

Anyone have information about designing an efield probe antenna for reception? Several years ago in lowdown I saw and article on it.
Thanks.

50. Re: [lowfrequency] E-Field Probe Antenna

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-10-26 03:08:18 UTC
From: Mark McCarthy
Topic: 49 Message: 50

Hello,

This is a much discussed E-Field probe ...

http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/pdf/0109031.pdf

Mark

----- Original Message -----

From: "kc0lwn" <kc0lwn@...>
To: <lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2004 2:33 PM
Subject: [lowfrequency] E-Field Probe Antenna

>
>
> Anyone have information about designing an efield probe antenna for
> reception? Several years ago in lowdown I saw and article on it.
> Thanks.
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> How LOW can your rig GO?
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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53. question from a newbie

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-11-20 20:08:21 UTC
From: vincefont@comcast.net
Topic: 53 Message: 53

I have a question for those of you out there who aren't as new as I am to the likes of Squarepusher, Spacetime Continuum, Autechre.. just to name a FEW. I co-host an internet radio show called Schizopolis (http://www.thedividingline.com/s.html) and our show is rife with this style of music as it's a relatively new discovery of mine and I'm excited to share it. But I want to discover more. An awful lot of listeners of our show who are totally new to the style (the station's listeners are primarily fans of the progressive rock genre) have asked me "What do you call this stuff? What category does this fall under?" Now, I know it doesn't really fall under "ambient", which is what I would consider artists like Hafler Trio and Azusa Plane. I have heard the term IDM bandied about but I'm ashamed to say I don't know what that stands for. I'm more familiar with terms like glitch, scratch, dub... can any of you helpful helpers help? :)

Vince Font
--
Listen to "SCHIZOPOLIS!" Two hours of music you won't hear anywhere else, every Monday from 10PM to Midnight (PST), only on the Dividing Line Broadcast Network. Listen live or on archive at http://www.thedividingline.com/s.html

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

55. Re: question from a newbie

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-11-22 17:23:02 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 53 Message: 55

Vince,

The purpose of this group is electromagnetic propagation and technology in the 3,000 to 300,000 kHz range. Presumably you're here because your programming is carried on a technically experimental radio station(s) transmitting somewhere in that range. If that is true, please give the hours of operation, frequency, location, emission mode, and power.

Please play down the programming content. I'm mainly interested in watching how well your signal breaks through the noise on a waterfall display. If your signal's well above the noise I might turn on the speaker.

Best regards,

Steven

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, vincefont@c... wrote:
> I have a question for those of you out there who aren't as new as I am to the likes of Squarepusher, Spacetime Continuum, Autechre.. just to name a FEW. I co-host an internet radio show called Schizopolis (http://www.thedividingline.com/s.html) and our show is rife with this style of music as it's a relatively new discovery of mine and I'm excited to share it. But I want to discover more. An awful lot of listeners of our show who are totally new to the style (the station's listeners are primarily fans of the progressive rock genre) have asked me "What do you call this stuff? What category does this fall under?" Now, I know it doesn't really fall under "ambient", which is what I would consider artists like Hafler Trio and Azusa Plane. I have heard the term IDM bandied about but I'm ashamed to say I don't know what that stands for. I'm more familiar with terms like glitch, scratch, dub... can any of you helpful helpers help? :)
>
> Vince Font
> --
> Listen to "SCHIZOPOLIS!" Two hours of music you won't hear anywhere else, every Monday from 10PM to Midnight (PST), only on the Dividing Line Broadcast Network. Listen live or on archive at http://www.thedividingline.com/s.html
>
> [Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

56. I'm back...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-12-10 05:54:13 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 56 Message: 56

Lately I have been sort of busy & the group got neglected. This evening I did some necessary stuff.

For inappropriate posts, vincefont@... has been removed. I'm not sure how he got into the group to begin with; I don't remember admitting him, and I have no notations in my management files to indicate that I DID admit him. I suspect some hacker hanky panky here.

Mr. T.

58. Re: I'm back...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-12-13 17:00:56 UTC
From: Steve
Topic: 56 Message: 58

Doh! Sorry about that... I responded to one of his emails before seeing your post.

You can have a Yahoo ID, and have several email addresses attached to it, including other Yahoo IDs. So my "permanent" email is stupidspammer@..., but my Yahoo ID is friendlyguy@.... And friendlygal@..., and yetanotherguy@.... I have them linked.

Then I join a list as "friendlygal@...", but I can now post from any of the other emails/yahoo IDs I have linked. Thereby making it difficult to ban me.

I'd strongly suggest deleting his emails. To someone looking to join, seeing even a few spams evident on the list can really make someone hesitant to join.

Steve Greenfield

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@y...> wrote:
>
> Lately I have been sort of busy & the group got neglected. This
> evening I did some necessary stuff.
>
> For inappropriate posts, vincefont@c... has been removed. I'm
> not sure how he got into the group to begin with; I don't remember
> admitting him, and I have no notations in my management files to
> indicate that I DID admit him. I suspect some hacker hanky panky
> here.
>
> Mr. T.

59. New member

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-12-14 02:50:04 UTC
From: spectreman51
Topic: 59 Message: 59

Hi all.

My name is Chris Lumsden & I will soon be doing some VLF listening. I am obtaining a very nice ex-Navy VLF receiver made by Collins, made in 1976. All solid state & very well made, but pretty big & heavy too. Was the type installed on US & NATO subs. Covers from 10 to 60 kHz.

Has anyone on this list monitored the MSK & FSK sub fleet broadcast signals, & perhaps tried demodulating the data ? I will be trying to do this myself, though I know that most of this is encrypted.

Cheers, Chris Lumsden
Sydney, Australia.

60. Re: [lowfrequency] New member

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-12-14 03:27:38 UTC
From: Myamiphil
Topic: 59 Message: 60

encrypted stuf I wouldnt even try... theres so many
methods.... codes change daily.. why bother.... and
today theres way to many new techniques.... 128
encryption is free on the net... Got a few spare Cray
computers laying around??

Im sure the radio is well made.. COllins is good
stuff....Where did you find the radio?

Good luck...
Phil

--- spectreman51 <spectreman51@...> wrote:

>
>
> Hi all.
>
> My name is Chris Lumsden & I will soon be doing some
> VLF listening.
> I am obtaining a very nice ex-Navy VLF receiver made
> by Collins, made
> in 1976. All solid state & very well made, but
> pretty big & heavy
> too. Was the type installed on US & NATO subs.
> Covers from 10 to 60
> kHz.
>
> Has anyone on this list monitored the MSK & FSK sub
> fleet broadcast
> signals, & perhaps tried demodulating the data ? I
> will be trying to
> do this myself, though I know that most of this is
> encrypted.
>
> Cheers, Chris Lumsden
> Sydney, Australia.
>
>
>
>
>
>

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http://mail.yahoo.com

61. Re: [lowfrequency] New member

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-12-14 03:39:04 UTC
From: Chris Lumsden
Topic: 59 Message: 61

Hi Phil.

The radio was rescued from a local scrapyard ! A friend of mine got 3 of them. Doing a radio swap for one of them. The only defects with them were few of the digital display lamps were blown, but these were easily replaced. It uses grain of wheat bulbs for the display. Pre-dates LED displays I suppose.

About 2 microvolts sensitivity.

Cheers, Chris.

Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
http://mail.yahoo.com

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

62. Re: [lowfrequency] New member

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-12-14 03:47:09 UTC
From: KD7JYK
Topic: 59 Message: 62

"The radio was rescued from a local scrapyard ! A friend of mine got 3 of them."

HOLY CRAP!

I seem to have the odd luck of finding LW direction finders, yardsales, thrift shops, some new, once at the dump I walked around a pile of junk and there was a nice shiny unit sitting on top of an upright table!

Kurt

Rosetta Proving Ground, Nevada
Hell's Laboratory

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

63. Re: New member

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-12-14 06:25:34 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 59 Message: 63

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "spectreman51"
<spectreman51@y...> wrote:
>
>
> Hi all.
>
> My name is Chris Lumsden & I will soon be doing some VLF listening.
> I am obtaining a very nice ex-Navy VLF receiver made by Collins,
made
> in 1976. All solid state & very well made, but pretty big & heavy
> too. Was the type installed on US & NATO subs. Covers from 10 to
60
> kHz.
>
> Has anyone on this list monitored the MSK & FSK sub fleet
broadcast
> signals, & perhaps tried demodulating the data ? I will be trying
to
> do this myself, though I know that most of this is encrypted.
>
> Cheers, Chris Lumsden
> Sydney, Australia.

64. CFH, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-12-14 06:58:30 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 64 Message: 64

This is a question for the folks in the northeastern US.

I've been reading the RTTY and FAX weather broadcasts from CFH (Canadian Forces Radio, Halifax)on HF for a very long time now.

I usually copy them on 10,536.0 KHz or 6496.4 KHz. At the top of the hour, they give a listing of all of thier broadcast frequencies, and they list 122.5 KHz as one of the active frequencies. A number of times I've gone looking for that one without success; I've never been able to find any trace of a signal there.

Anybody know if that really IS an active CFH frequency?

Over the past few years we've lost so many Canadian Forces long wave transmissions... I'm wondering if this one is also lost, but nobody ever bothered to update the broadcast frequency list.

Is anybody out there hearing Halifax?

Mr. T.

65. New around here

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-12-26 01:54:31 UTC
From: g0aqi
Topic: 33 Message: 65

Hello all. Being a newcomer and inexperienced with the LF end of
things I'd be pleased to hear of any reccomendations that members
might have for their choice of long-wave receiver.
It looks like it's all Military/Gov't surplus, how easy to find?

I'm a licensed amateur and also a professional HF SSB operator at
Heathrow airport, so I know a little bit about radios, I just don't
know much about serious LF!!
Thanks in anticipation
Lou

66. Re: [lowfrequency] New around here

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2004-12-26 01:59:23 UTC
From: KD7JYK
Topic: 33 Message: 66

Go to http://www.lwca.org Sign up for the LF e-mail list there. Lots of activity and information... Many of the yahoo groups are back ups for that list.

Kurt

Rosetta Proving Ground, Nevada
Hell's Laboratory

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

67. The World's Biggest Loopstick Antenna???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-06 00:27:25 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 67 Message: 67

Well... it's the middle of the winter, and as usual I took a couple of weeks of vacation from work (use it or lose it). SO... it's time to indulge in the nutty projects that have been percolating in my head all year long. THIS one is a beauty!

Last summer's hamfests offered up something interesting. A guy showed up with literally THOUSANDS of ferrite toroidal cores, unused, in the factory cartons. They were dirt cheap, with unknown characteristics, so for five bucks I became the proud owner of about 250 of them. They are the kind of item that eventually tells you what they want to be!

Snooping on the internet I eventually found a spec sheet on them. The cores are made by Philips's Ferroxcube division, and they were meant for general low frequency inductor and transformer purposes, up to 200 KHz. For anyone curious, they're Philips T36/23/15-3C85 cores. They're made of a manganese / zinc ferrite (not iron powder like the "T" designation would seem to indicate), and they're quite high in permeability; about 2000 - 2300. A LOT of them stacked up would make a high permeability ferrite rod.

It didn't take long to discover that the cores gave a good tight friction fit on a hunk of 3/4" CPVC plastic pipe. Taking the discovery a step further, it was found that a pipe covered with them gave a snug fit inside of a hunk of 1.5" schedule 80 PVC conduit. Hmmmmm...

Prowling around the hardware store's plumbing section a bit more, I found that the sked 80 PVC fit nicely inside of 2" schedule 40 PVC pipe, with room enough for a winding on the sked 80. Mating a few stray fittings in a 2" coupler locked all three pipes firmly into a fixed position in relation to each other.

Well, we're off to the races...

All that PVC filled with ferrite cores is sort of heavy, but I'm now using the old Sencore Z-Meter to put together a 3 foot long loopstick antenna for LF / VLF!

I'm hoping that I can wind enough wire on the 1.5" pipe to get an inductor that will tune down to 10 KHz with a 2200 pf variable cap. A link coil at the center of the winding is to be connected to a low noise preamplifier that will feed the receiver.

As the final step on this thing; I'm looking at the possibility of painting the outer 2" PVC pipe with metalic paint as an electrostatic shield over the antenna. Naturally, there will be an unpainted gap on the bottom of the pipe to prevent the "shorted turn syndrome". The shielding will be painted with normal, nonmetalic paint to protect it

and make this monstrosity look a bit better! The metalic paint will be tied to ground.

I considered tapping the winding to make it multiband, but a better approach seems (at this point) to be making individual loopsticks for each tuning range desired.

When I get the first one done, I'll upload pictures of the exploded loopstick... not so much as a "how to" (I doubt that anybody else will be lucky enough to encounter a large number of similar cores to make an identical ferrite rod), but to hopefully give a few ideas in case somebody else runs to some dude at a hamfest with a ton of manufacturer's overrun cores. It lets ya now what's possible, and what's easy to do, in any case.

Mr. T.

68. Re: [lowfrequency] The World's Biggest Loopstick Antenna???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-06 00:33:40 UTC
From: Adam Ebel
Topic: 67 Message: 68

Tom, I saw your post, and it sounded interesting. How can I get involved in making my own loop stick antenna?. Can you ever show a pic of it when you are done. I would like to learn more about the inductors. I would really appreciate it thanks. Happy New Year :)

Adam E.

Tom Adams <w9lbb@...> wrote:

Well... it's the middle of the winter, and as usual I took a couple of weeks of vacation from work (use it or lose it). SO... it's time to indulge in the nutty projects that have been percolating in my head all year long. THIS one is a beauty!

Last summer's hamfests offered up something interesting. A guy showed up with literally THOUSANDS of ferrite toroidal cores, unused, in the factory cartons. They were dirt cheap, with unknown characteristics, so for five bucks I became the proud owner of about 250 of them. They are the kind of item that eventually tells you what they want to be!

Snooping on the internet I eventually found a spec sheet on them. The cores are made by Philips's Ferroxcube division, and they were meant for general low frequency inductor and transformer purposes, up to 200 KHz. For anyone curious, they're Philips T36/23/15-3C85 cores. They're made of a manganese / zinc ferrite (not iron powder like the "T" designation would seem to indicate), and they're quite high in permeability; about 2000 - 2300. A LOT of them stacked up would make a high permeability ferrite rod.

It didn't take long to discover that the cores gave a good tight friction fit on a hunk of 3/4" CPVC plastic pipe. Taking the discovery a step further, it was found that a pipe covered with them gave a snug fit inside of a hunk of 1.5" schedule 80 PVC conduit. Hmmmmm...

Prowling around the hardware store's plumbing section a bit more, I found that the sked 80 PVC fit nicely inside of 2" schedule 40 PVC pipe, with room enough for a winding on the sked 80. Mating a few stray fittings in a 2" coupler locked all three pipes firmly into a fixed position in relation to each other.

Well, we're off to the races...

All that PVC filled with ferrite cores is sort of heavy, but I'm now using the old Sencore Z-Meter to put together a 3 foot long loopstick antenna for LF / VLF!

I'm hoping that I can wind enough wire on the 1.5" pipe to get an inductor that will tune down to 10 KHz with a 2200 pf variable cap.

A link coil at the center of the winding is to be connected to a low noise preamplifier that will feed the receiver.

As the final step on this thing; I'm looking at the possibility of painting the outer 2" PVC pipe with metalic paint as an electrostatic shield over the antenna. Naturally, there will be an unpainted gap on the bottom of the pipe to prevent the "shorted turn syndrome". The shielding will be painted with normal, nonmetalic paint to protect it and make this monstrosity look a bit better! The metalic paint will be tied to ground.

I considered tapping the winding to make it multiband, but a better approach seems (at this point) to be making individual loopsticks for each tuning range desired.

When I get the first one done, I'll upload pictures of the exploded loopstick... not so much as a "how to" (I doubt that anybody else will be lucky enough to encounter a large number of similar cores to make an identical ferrite rod), but to hopefully give a few ideas in case somebody else runs to some dude at a hamfest with a ton of manufacturer's overrun cores. It lets ya now what's possible, and what's easy to do, in any case.

Mr. T.

How LOW can your rig GO?
Yahoo! Groups Links

Do you Yahoo!?
The all-new My Yahoo! ? Get yours free!

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

69. Re: New around here

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-06 00:40:54 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 33 Message: 69

Hello Lou.

LF receivers? You're in luck!

IMHO one of the best ones out there, in addition to being a pretty fine HF receiver too, is a native to your country... Racal RA1772.

The beastie is MY favorite here, and you have the advantage of NOT having to ship the damned thing transatlantic! Air freight was almost a deal breaker with me... it was almost 100 Pounds Sterling to ship it to me from Telford Electronics. I don't regret it tho... that radio made me a Racal addict.

I get the impression that there's a bunch of them around over there, having been recently retired by the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

I understand that there's a VLF version of the old Murphy B-40 around too; I briefly had the HF version here once. Good receiver, but VERY heavy, and it was a pain to get hold of English tubes to keep it in good shape.

Good luck!

Tom, W9LBB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "g0aqi" <g0aqi@a...> wrote:
>
> Hello all. Being a newcomer and inexperienced with the LF end of
> things I'd be pleased to hear of any reccomendations that members
> might have for their choice of long-wave receiver.
> It looks like it's all Military/Gov't surplus, how easy to find?
>
> I'm a licensed amateur and also a professional HF SSB operator at
> Heathrow airport, so I know a little bit about radios, I just don't
> know much about serious LF!!
> Thanks in anticipation
> Lou

70. Re: [lowfrequency] The World's Biggest Loopstick Antenna???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-06 16:43:51 UTC
From: Myamiphil
Topic: 67 Message: 70

Hi Tom.. dont know if its the largest, but an
interesting story nontheless. Do you know how many
turns of wire will be made onto this core....

IT scares me when I think of winding 70,000 - 120,000
turns of wire onto a bit on mu-metal rods!!! It
definitely will not be a prtable antna for sure... THe
one pic I saw of one, from a guy in AZ has it on
cement blocks if I recall right....

Im sending you one big 'attaboy'! ITs sounds like a
great project...

Making it tunable over a wider range does sound
interesting too... Wouldnt it be nice to have one assy
for MW, LF and on down to ULF for Schumann and
earthquake precursors....just dreamin....

Phil

--- Tom Adams <w9lbb@...> wrote:

>
> Well... it's the middle of the winter, and as
> usual I took a couple
> of weeks of vacation from work (use it or lose it).
> SO... it's time
> to indulge in the nutty projects that have been
> percolating in my
> head all year long. THIS one is a beauty!
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> Last summer's hamfests offered up something
> interesting. A guy showed
> up with literally THOUSANDS of ferrite toroidal
> cores, unused, in the
> factory cartons. They were dirt cheap, with unknown
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> so for five bucks I became the proud owner of about
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> Snooping on the internet I eventually found a spec
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> They're made of a manganese / zinc ferrite (not iron
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> Taking the discovery
> a step further, it was found that a pipe covered
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> fit inside of a hunk of 1.5" schedule 80 PVC
> conduit. Hmmmmm...
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> Prowling around the hardware store's plumbing
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> I found that the sked 80 PVC fit nicely inside of 2"
> schedule 40 PVC
> pipe, with room enough for a winding on the sked 80.
> Mating a few
> stray fittings in a 2" coupler locked all three
> pipes firmly into a
> fixed position in relation to each other.
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> I'm hoping that I can wind enough wire on the 1.5"
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> A link coil at the center of the winding is to be
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> what's easy to do, in any case.
>
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> Mr. T.
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Do you Yahoo!?
Yahoo! Mail - Helps protect you from nasty viruses.
http://promotions.yahoo.com/new_mail

71. Re: The World's Biggest Loopstick Antenna???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-09 17:57:47 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 67 Message: 71

Hello Phil.

Well... the project is proceeding quite nicely, and we've got a breadboarded version of it set up and running RIGHT NOW.

The concept of stacking a lot of small cores to make one BIG ferrite core is apparently valid, and seems to be working out beautifully.

I don't know how many turns are on the 1.5" PVC coil form; it was enough of a hassle to WIND them, and at this point my thumbs are still too sore from the winding to bother to COUNT them! I'll get to that in a couple of days.

In any event... I sat down in front to the TV set with a spool of #20 magnet wire, and a spool of 50 pound test monofilament fishing line, and began to wind them bifilar. The fishing line is there to space the turns about 1 wire diameter, in order to (A) increase the coil Q factor, and (B) reduce winding the capacitance, to increase the self resonant frequency of the coil to above the intended tuning range.

I put on a laserdisk of THE GODFATHER TRILOGY, 1901 - 1980 (to keep me from going bonkers during what promised to be a LONG session of winding on a long, awkward form), and started putting on a "test" winding... to be stripped off after evaluation, and replaced with Litz wire, to reduce the RF resistance in the final coil.

About the time that Don Michael Corleone was giving Al Neri orders to whack his brother Fredo (only after Mama is gone), the winding was finished... I ran out of fishing line (110 yards of it!). LONG film, and a long, horrendous winding job... without that movie, I'd have gone insane from the tedium and frustration.

After finishing, I decided on the spot that the temporary "test" winding was gonna be the FINAL winding, unless it was way too horrible to consider using; unwrapped Litz wire is much more delicate to handle than magnet wire without damaging it on a wind like this.

The finished winding is 37.675" long, and just over 1.5" in diameter. It got two coats of thinned polyurethane varnish to hopefully make the winding sturdy enough to survive the mechanical handling it will get in final assembly of the antenna.

When the finished coil was hooked to the inductance meter, it measured about 175 microhenries without the ferrite core. When the core was added, the inductance shot up to about 31 MILLIHENRIES; my old Z-Meter got a bit flakey on an inductance that size, and danced around a good

bit. The Q is pretty high; the Sencore "ring test" hits a coil with a pulse, and counts the number of times it rings. A good coil will ring 10 times or more; with the core in place and the varnish on, it rang 175 - 200 times (before the varnish, it rang 200 - 250 times). I'd say that the Q of this sucker is pretty damned high! <<smile>>

This morning after the varnish was throughly dried, I borrowed some of the components from my open "box" loop antenna; the variable cap, and the preamplifier (an MPF-102 FET amp set up for high impedance input, followed by a 2N3904 wired as an emitter follower to drive a coaxial cable to the receiver).

A 15 turn link coil of hookup wire has been temporarily added to the center of the monster coil winding, for feeding a signal out of it.

Preliminary math calculations said that with a 60 - 2200 variable cap, shunted by a 100 pf padder cap this thing should resonate on a range of about 18 - 71 KHz.

The padder turned out to be unnecessary, and is actually a hinderance. Without it, the coil resonated in a range of 19.5 - 102 KHz... not too shabby!!!

I haven't yet connected my audio generator and VTVM to the coil to determine what it's self resonant frequency is... but it's clearly well above the tuning range, just like I needed.

The loop preamp is, right now, connected to the link coil, and it's being fed to the antenna input of one of the Racal RA1772s.

At the moment, WWVB is putting in a signal that's blowing ALL of the dust out of my speaker! The Navy VLF comm station at La Moure, ND at about 24 KHz is also blowing things away here. The LORAN signals at 100 KHz are chattering away, loud and clear.

My instincts and intuition had told me before the test that the box loop preamp wouldn't have enough gain for the loopstick; after all, a loopstick has a much smaller aperture than a 1.5 metre box loop. I'm still not certain that I'm wrong on that, but on strong signals at least it's doing the job well right now, at least in the tuned loop configuration.

I tried it as an untuned, broadband loopstick, and while I AM getting the stronger signals, the 25 or so DB of amplifier gain isn't enough for that configuration... I'd like to see another 10 - 15 DB of gain if this is used untuned.

I'll try to shoot some digital pictures of the test setup and upload them to the photos section here today.

If nothing else, it looks like this hairbrained idea is at least on the right track, it's feasable, and it's working!

73,s

Tom, W9LBB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, Myamiphil <myamiphil@y...> wrote:
> Hi Tom.. dont know if its the largest, but an
> interesting story nontheless. Do you know how many
> turns of wire will be made onto this core....
>
> IT scares me when I think of winding 70,000 - 120,000
> turns of wire onto a bit on mu-metal rods!!! It
> definitely will not be a prtable antna for sure... THe
> one pic I saw of one, from a guy in AZ has it on
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> Im sending you one big 'attaboy'! ITs sounds like a
> great project...
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> Making it tunable over a wider range does sound
> interesting too... Wouldnt it be nice to have one assy
> for MW, LF and on down to ULF for Schumann and
> earthquake precursors....just dreamin....
>
> Phil
>

72. Super Loopstick photos uploaded

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-10 01:07:19 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 72 Message: 72

The details of this wierd antenna experiment are now in the photos section of the group.

73. Collins VLF receiver

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-10 05:06:00 UTC
From: spectreman51
Topic: 73 Message: 73

Hello all.

I now have my Collins VLF receiver & have started listening
between 10 & 60 kHz.

Have made up a loop antenna & the receiver works very well.
Just a rough model antenna for now using a small plastic bucket for
the former & about 100 turns of wire.
I am recieving a strong MSK signal on 19.8 kHz from North West Cape
which is the closest VLF site to me. Also picking up GQD in the UK
well on 19.6 kHz.

The IF filters in the Rx are very good. The 200Hz position really
cuts out most of the noise. The noise reduction circuit is excellent
too.

Will see what else I can find.....

Cheers, Chris.
Sydney, Australia.

74. Re: Collins VLF receiver

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-10 05:34:07 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 73 Message: 74

Congratulations, Chris! It sounds like you've got a winner of a rig
there.

Keep us informed on what you're copying.

BTW, I'm curious... can you copy WWVB from Boulder, Colorado down
there?

73's,

Tom, W9LBB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "spectreman51"
<spectreman51@y...> wrote:
>
>
> Hello all.
>
> I now have my Collins VLF receiver & have started listening
> between 10 & 60 kHz.
>
> Have made up a loop antenna & the receiver works very well.
> Just a rough model antenna for now using a small plastic bucket for
> the former & about 100 turns of wire.
> I am recieving a strong MSK signal on 19.8 kHz from North West Cape
> which is the closest VLF site to me. Also picking up GQD in the UK
> well on 19.6 kHz.
>
> The IF filters in the Rx are very good. The 200Hz position really
> cuts out most of the noise. The noise reduction circuit is
excellent
> too.
>
> Will see what else I can find.....
>
> Cheers, Chris.
> Sydney, Australia.

75. Stromwise ferrite rods

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-10 21:24:12 UTC
From: kc0lwn
Topic: 75 Message: 75

Anyone have experiance with stormwise rods? what rod do you reccomend
I get for a vlf antenna?
Should I opt for a longer rod or thicker one?

76. Re: Stromwise ferrite rods

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-10 21:37:50 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 75 Message: 76

Howdy.

I bought one of the Stormwise rods last year. I'm kind of so-so on it; IHMO they're overpriced. I bought one of the 4 foot rods... the biggest one that they sell.

They tell you not to take the rod's PVC casing apart, but I had to for an experiment. When I did, I made an interesting discovery.

I had expected one solid chunk of ferrite, but that is not the case. The Stormwise rod has an inner hunk of PVC pipe that is filled with ferrite beads, the ends sealed with epoxy!

For the most part, the Stormwise rod will do everything that they claim it will, but I thought that $130 (plus $14.00 mailing) was pretty steep for maybe 8 - 10 pounds of ferrite beads and some PVC pipe!

73's,

Tom, W9LBB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "kc0lwn" <kc0lwn@y...> wrote:
>
> Anyone have experiance with stormwise rods? what rod do you reccomend
> I get for a vlf antenna?
> Should I opt for a longer rod or thicker one?

77. REMBEMBERS THIS WORLD CONTEST 2005

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-11 19:18:08 UTC
From: 21RSN001 President & Founder
Topic: 77 Message: 77

REMBEMBERS THIS WORLD CONTEST 2005

welcome to rsn dx group world contest

look this link all info in ther

http://rsnworldcontest.bravehost.com/

BEST 178 RSN 555 EMIL CONTEST MANAGER

AND 21 RSN 001 JANNE PRESIDENT

78. NWC VLF signal

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-12 01:18:25 UTC
From: spectreman51
Topic: 78 Message: 78

Hello all.

Someone asked if I can hear the WWVB 60kHz signal here in Australia,
but with my current antenna, I do not hear anything.
I actually get a lot of TV & PC interference on several freqs at my
location.
I will soon try building an improved loop antenna & see what happens.

Can anyone else copy the NWC signal on 19.8 kHz ?
This is the only signal I can receive so far, & comes in quite strong
here at night.

Cheers, Chris.

79. Re: Super Loopstick photos uploaded, and project progress

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-14 18:56:02 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 72 Message: 79

Howdy!

Well... the Super Loopstick (now dubbed "The Big Bazooka") is nearly completed, except for electronics. A coat of paint is being put on it right now, mostly to hopefully kill the tendency of PVC pipe to pick up a powerful static charge that attracts a thick coating of dust and hair from my Irish Setters! Also, I fear that the static would raise the noise floor of the antenna, and could get strong enough to pop the gate on the FET in the first stage of the preamplifier.

There have been a few minor changes in the outer shell, mostly of an aesthetic nature.

For those of you looking for statistics... the main (tuned) winding is 565 bifilar turns of #20 magnet wire & fishing line. The coil without the ferrite core inserted is about 175 uh, and with the core in place is about 31 Mh. DC resistance is about 3.14 ohms.

The low impedence link wound on the coil center is 20 turns of close wound #18 hookup wire, secured there by a layer of Duco cement, and covered with 3M glass fibre tape.

The final, assembled tuning range with a 2200 - 60 pf variable cap is 19.5 - 103 KHz.

The weight of the finished loopstick is hefty (about 12 pounds), but it is still well within reason for portable, DXpedition uses. The fabrication of a rotating mount for it will be continuing when the weather breaks; right now, we're into a serious cold snap, and the garage shop is at about 5 degrees... not exactly pleasant, or safe for using things like a bandsaw or drill press (cold fingers can get badly torn up in an accident before you're aware you've been injured).

As far as preamp electronics are concerned, I found a preamp that is remarkably similar to the one I use for my box loops on the K0LR web page. As I previously said, the preamp gain seemed a bit low for use with a loopstick (smaller signal capture aperture for a loopstick than for a 1.5 metre box loop), but K0LR came up with a feature that should take care of that; he's added feedback to the preamp, making it regenerative. With a further minor modification, it should not only boost preamp gain, but also act like an old fashioned Q multiplier circuit to make the tuning much sharper. Thank You Lyle for the inspiration, and Thank You Edwin Howard Armstrong for the solution to my problem!!! :o)

In the meantime... using information and experience gained from the fabrication of the first loopstick plug-in, I'm currently working on

another plug-in that will cover 95 - 500+ Khz, assuming the math holds up (and it should).

73's,

Tom, W9LBB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@y...> wrote:
>
> The details of this wierd antenna experiment are now in the photos
> section of the group.

80. Re: Super Loopstick photos uploaded, and project progress

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-16 05:17:51 UTC
From: olsonchuck
Topic: 72 Message: 80

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@y...> wrote:
>
> Howdy!
>
> Well... the Super Loopstick (now dubbed "The Big Bazooka") is nearly
> completed, except for electronics. A coat of paint is being put on it
>

Thanks, Tom, for the very informative construction notes on your Super Loopstick.

I was just thinking what you said in a previous description of some of your work with it - - your old Z-meter bounced around a lot - - I believe. I'm not trying to criticize your effort there, but don't you think this "segmented" core is going to cause the inductance to bounce around a bit? I know it's a breakthrough in constructing a large loopstick, but maybe it will need some further work to stablilze the effect of the overall core. I can visualize having to epoxy glue all the cores together to make one stiff assembly to eliminate the variation in face-to-face air gap with mechanical flexure. Or maybe it might be better to add very thin plastic spacers between the cores so that whatever variation there is will be small compared to the plastic gaps. Of course that would probably greatly reduce the effectivness of the core, which wouldn't be at all desirable - - interesting problem.

I do hope the toroid loopstick does what you need it to do. You certainly have worked hard enough on it to achieve that result.

Best wishes,

Chuck

81. Re: Super Loopstick photos uploaded, and project progress

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-16 20:08:15 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 72 Message: 81

Hello Chuck!

>> your old Z-meter bounced around a lot - - I believe. I'm not trying to criticize your effort there, but don't you think this "segmented" core is going to cause the inductance to bounce around a bit? <<

No criticism taken... not at all. I welcome anybody trying to point out flaws in the construction or the basic concept.

Yes, the Q-meter bounces some, but I'm chalking that up to instrument error. When measuring the inductance of ANY large inductor (over a few millihenries), the meter does the same thing. I attribute it to clocking in the meter's microprocessor, combined with the time it will take to charge a large inductance to saturation for a measurement. To that, add the fact that this meter is old and somewhat banged up... it is good enough for an experimenter's workbench, but I wouldn't trust it for lab work.

>> I can visualize having to epoxy glue all the cores together to make one stiff assembly to eliminate the variation in face-to-face air gap with mechanical flexure. Or maybe it might be better to add very thin plastic spacers between the cores so that whatever variation there is will be small compared to the plastic gaps. <<

There's definitely something to be said for that approach. In this particular case tho, the cores are pretty snugly fitted into the 1.5" coil form, and slack is taken up at the ends to the point that what little movement is possible causes a very small percentage of change in permeability of the overall stack.

In actual reception use, the core seems quite stable enough for DXing use. I attribute the slight change in tuning range that I got on final assembly to (A) a slight shift in overall core position as compared to the test setup, and (B) possibly some metallic oxides in the paint that are used as the coloring agent.

Actually, on loopstick #2 (now under development), the air gap is proving to be quite useful.

A friend has asked me to develop a fixed tuned version of it at 60 KHz for WWVB reception. In playing with the math, I found that a roughly 1.4 MH inductor shunted with .005 mfd would not only do that job, but the same inductor, tuned by my 60 - 2200 pf variable, would also tune roughly 100 - 500 KHz, a band that I want to include in the tuning range of this beast anyway.

When I wound an experimental model of it (to determine winding length and number of cores required), it was quickly found that these cores have TOO high a permeability for use above 500 KHz unless the coil is made ridiculously short, or unless the turns were spaced MUCH wider apart.

In the model being evaluated at the moment, the winding is about 12" long. With a stack of cores inserted, inductance is about 4.5 MH. But, I hit the right inductance with an experimental setup.

The core stack has 21 cores on it. The end six cores on each end are deliberately spaced about 1/4", which reduces the inductance to the proper value. After jockeying the spacings a little bit, an inductor that tunes 94 - 507 KHz resulted. The cores are locked into position with Duco cement for the time being, and the resulting core, tho odd looking, seems to have quite good reception sensitivity. About 15 minutes ago (daytime), I was listening to the airport nondirectional beacon at Hartford, Wisconsin (about 125 miles away airline), loud and clear on it. The beacon is 25 watts into a rather inefficient "tee" antenna strung between two telephone poles, and is on 200 KHz. The Hartford beacon is well known to me, and I use it as my benchmark signal for evaluating loop antenna performance.

The spacing of the end cores suggests something VERY useful for the fixed tuned version of the antenna; with a fixed resonating cap, the antenna can be tuned PRECISELY to 60 KHz for WWVB by moving the cores on thier support pipe to adjust overall coil inductance!

Sometimes, trying hairbrained ideas in engineering produces some serendipitous results! :o)

The fixed tuned version should wind up as a weatherproof package about 16" long, ready to be roof mounted and powered up the coaxial cable. The only thing now is to produce a small, simple preamp to mount at the antenna. BTW... these cores ALSO produce very nice RF chokes for long wave, and a coupling transformer for the power supply box to connect the receiver to the loopstick.

73's,

Tom, W9LBB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "olsonchuck" <chuckolson01@c...> wrote:
>
> --- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@y...> wrote:
> >
> > Howdy!
> >
> > Well... the Super Loopstick (now dubbed "The Big Bazooka") is nearly
> > completed, except for electronics. A coat of paint is being put on it

> >
>
> Thanks, Tom, for the very informative construction notes on your
Super
> Loopstick.
>
> I was just thinking what you said in a previous description of some
of
> your work with it - - your old Z-meter bounced around a lot - - I
> believe. I'm not trying to criticize your effort there, but don't
you
> think this "segmented" core is going to cause the inductance to
bounce
> around a bit? I know it's a breakthrough in constructing a large
> loopstick, but maybe it will need some further work to stablilze the
> effect of the overall core. I can visualize having to epoxy glue all
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> variation in face-to-face air gap with mechanical flexure. Or maybe
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> might be better to add very thin plastic spacers between the cores
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> that whatever variation there is will be small compared to the
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> gaps. Of course that would probably greatly reduce the effectivness
of
> the core, which wouldn't be at all desirable - - interesting
problem.
>
> I do hope the toroid loopstick does what you need it to do. You
> certainly have worked hard enough on it to achieve that result.
>
> Best wishes,
>
> Chuck

82. New to the group

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-17 14:46:40 UTC
From: Brian
Topic: 82 Message: 82

Just wanted to introduce myself. I am a Tech class ham and studing for my General ticket. I'm a computer engineer by trade and a bench tech as my hobby. I'm new to low frequency monitoring and looking for suggestions on a good beginning receiver and antenna?

I am also a big tube junkie and tube equipment is a big plus for me.

I live about 45 mins north of Detroit Michigan and looking forward to exploring this area of the spectrum.

Thanks
Brian
KC8ZBC

83. I am trying homebrew low pass filters for LW how do I do it right?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-18 18:26:34 UTC
From: Adam Ebel
Topic: 83 Message: 83

I need some assistance with figuring on how to build a low
pass filter for my DX-392 to block out AM radio interference
from local radio stations in my area in the longwave band region of
520 down to 150 kHz. Also would this filter circuit block out any
HF interference as well from strong local shortwave broadcasters?
Please help me out thanks I Would appreciate it.

BTW, this is a great group, and I hope everyone enjoys and
understands longwave radio here. If anyone who just joined this
group, please visit my my site and other groups on the site, I just
wanted to share something with newbies and hobbyist, etc here. :

http://www.geocities.com/gccengineering/

Adam E.

84. Re: I am trying homebrew low pass filters for LW how do I do it right?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-18 23:00:53 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 83 Message: 84

Howdy, Adam!

There's a couple of ways to help out with your problem, and a low pass filter is certainly one of them.

In older editions of the ARRL HANDBOOK (perhaps pre 1970), there are basic filter sections shown and the equations to calculate the L and C values.

A simpler approach to the problem is available tho.

Your broadcast garbage problems are probably caused by overloading products from only 2 or 3 stations, the strongest ones at your location. If they can be attenuated or eliminated, the problem is solved. And that's easily done with wavetraps across the antenna line.

You simply put together a series resonant L/C circuit tuned to the carrier frequency of each of the strongest signals, and tie it between the antenna input and ground. I assume you're using a coax feedline to your receiver; a number of wavetraps for several stations can be put into a small minibox, along with input and output coax connectors. Sometimes, only one trap is needed; if you eliminate the strongest offender, it also reduces the amplitude of the mixing products that make up the intermod garbage.

Even if you aren't using a coax feedline, it's worth it to try a trap between the antenna input and the ground connection.

In each wavetrap, either the capacitor or the inductor has to be a variable. You tune in the offending signal, and adjust the wavetrap until the signal strength drops to a minimum value on the S meter.

Obviously, each trap eats one signal... repeat the process for each station that you want to eliminate.

Traps are a WHOLE lot simpler mathwise to design than filter sections are.

Good luck,

Tom, W9LBB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Adam Ebel" <electronicdx@y...>
wrote:
>
>
>
> I need some assistance with figuring on how to build a low

> pass filter for my DX-392 to block out AM radio interference
> from local radio stations in my area in the longwave band region of
> 520 down to 150 kHz. Also would this filter circuit block out any
> HF interference as well from strong local shortwave
broadcasters?
> Please help me out thanks I Would appreciate it.
>
> BTW, this is a great group, and I hope everyone enjoys and
> understands longwave radio here. If anyone who just joined this
> group, please visit my my site and other groups on the site, I just
> wanted to share something with newbies and hobbyist, etc here. :
>
>
>
> http://www.geocities.com/gccengineering/
>
> Adam E.

85. Re: I am trying homebrew low pass filters for LW how do I do it right?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-22 18:27:09 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 83 Message: 85

Adam,

A couple added comments:

Tom's method of using wave traps works for many MW BCB strong station problems from DC to 10 or 20 MHz. By making up one set of traps in a shielded box with input and output coax connectors you can put it between any antenna and receiver combination as needed.

You can even use the traps to improve DX reception in the MW BCB band. When carefully adjusted, the wave traps will also provide a bit of MW antenna tuning.

If a preamplifier is used, the wave traps must be between the antenna and preamplifier.

Building a set of wave traps is a very good investment of a communications technologist's time.

Best regards,

Steven

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@y...> wrote:
>
> Howdy, Adam!
>
> There's a couple of ways to help out with your problem, and a low
> pass filter is certainly one of them.
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> In older editions of the ARRL HANDBOOK (perhaps pre 1970), there
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> products from only 2 or 3 stations, the strongest ones at your
> location. If they can be attenuated or eliminated, the problem is
> solved. And that's easily done with wavetraps across the antenna
line.
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> You simply put together a series resonant L/C circuit tuned to the
> carrier frequency of each of the strongest signals, and tie it
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> the antenna input and ground. I assume you're using a coax
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> your receiver; a number of wavetraps for several stations can be
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> into a small minibox, along with input and output coax connectors.
> Sometimes, only one trap is needed; if you eliminate the strongest
> offender, it also reduces the amplitude of the mixing products that
> make up the intermod garbage.
>
> Even if you aren't using a coax feedline, it's worth it to try a
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> In each wavetrap, either the capacitor or the inductor has to be a
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> Obviously, each trap eats one signal... repeat the process for
each
> station that you want to eliminate.
>
> Traps are a WHOLE lot simpler mathwise to design than filter
sections
> are.
>
>
> Good luck,
>
> Tom, W9LBB
>
>
>
>
> --- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Adam Ebel"
<electronicdx@y...>
> wrote:
> >
> >
> >
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> > HF interference as well from strong local shortwave
> broadcasters?
> > Please help me out thanks I Would appreciate it.
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> > BTW, this is a great group, and I hope everyone enjoys and

> > understands longwave radio here. If anyone who just joined this
> > group, please visit my my site and other groups on the site, I
just
> > wanted to share something with newbies and hobbyist, etc here. :
> >
> >
> >
> > http://www.geocities.com/gccengineering/
> >
> > Adam E.

86. Re: New to the group

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-01-22 18:52:27 UTC
From: Steven S. Coles
Topic: 82 Message: 86

Brian,

Welcome!

One of the lovely things about frequencies below 300 kHz is almost any technology works□at least for some aspects of listening or natural radio monitoring.

People have listened to whistlers with just a whip antenna, hum filter, and audio amplifier. The BBB-4 is a home-built portable solid-state version. You could explore the BBB-4 and similar receivers for passive filter ideas to add to a vacuum-tube version.

An octo-loop antenna helps shield out electrical field noise (the major source of noise) while receiving the less noisy magnetic field. I've found the octo-loop concept works well in versions as small as 6 feet across.

The Jackson Harbor solid-state up converter enables listening to ~20 □ 200 kHz on your favorite shortwave receiver.

Waterfall displays, such as ARGO and Spectran software, pull slow radiotelegraph and natural radio out of background noise.

For low-frequency DYI projects see:

http://www.auroralchorus.com/bbb4b.htm

http://www.lwca.org/library/articles/ywk/octoloop.htm

http://jacksonharbor.home.att.net/lfconv.htm

http://www.weaksignals.com/

Best regards,

Steven

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Brian" <brian@5...> wrote:
>
> Just wanted to introduce myself. I am a Tech class ham and studing
for
> my General ticket. I'm a computer engineer by trade and a bench
tech
> as my hobby. I'm new to low frequency monitoring and looking for
> suggestions on a good beginning receiver and antenna?
>
> I am also a big tube junkie and tube equipment is a big plus for

me.
>
> I live about 45 mins north of Detroit Michigan and looking forward
to
> exploring this area of the spectrum.
>
> Thanks
> Brian
> KC8ZBC

87. WILCOM T194C

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-02-04 04:46:41 UTC
From: ve6pg
Topic: 87 Message: 87

DOES ANYONE KNOW HOW THIS THING IS SUPPOSED TO WORK FOR LF RECEIVING?
PLEASE LET ME KNOW...THANKS...TIM...VE6PG..

88. WILCOM T194C RECEIVER

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-02-08 03:05:49 UTC
From: ve6pg
Topic: 88 Message: 88

DOES ANYONE KNOW ABOUT THIS RECEIVER? IT WAS DESIGNED AS A TELEPHONE
TEST UNIT TO DETERMINE LINE LOSS/SIGNAL STENGTH. OK,I HAVE ONE,AND
WOULD LIKE TO GET A SCHEMATIC AND,OR AN OPERATING MANUAL...CAN YOU
HELP?
73...TIM...VE6PG

89. Re: I am trying homebrew low pass filters for LW how do I do it right?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-02-08 20:07:04 UTC
From: Adam E.
Topic: 83 Message: 89

Steven, Thanks, but I used to have my Radio Science Observing Vol 2 CD-ROM, but I lost it. :(Is there anything you can help me out with making my own traps? I don't know when I will get another copy of Joseph J Carrs Volume 2 CD, but there is got to be something out there to make it easy?

Adam E. gccengineering

http://www.geocities.com/gccengineering/

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Steven S. Coles" <scoles@i...> wrote:
>
> Adam,
>
> A couple added comments:
>
> Tom's method of using wave traps works for many MW BCB strong
> station problems from DC to 10 or 20 MHz. By making up one set of
> traps in a shielded box with input and output coax connectors you
> can put it between any antenna and receiver combination as needed.
>
> You can even use the traps to improve DX reception in the MW BCB
> band. When carefully adjusted, the wave traps will also provide a
> bit of MW antenna tuning.
>
> If a preamplifier is used, the wave traps must be between the
> antenna and preamplifier.
>
> Building a set of wave traps is a very good investment of a
> communications technologist's time.
>
> Best regards,
>
> Steven
>
> --- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@y...> wrote:
> >
> > Howdy, Adam!
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> > Traps are a WHOLE lot simpler mathwise to design than filter
> sections
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> >
> >
> > Good luck,

> >
> > Tom, W9LBB
> >
> >
> >
> >
> > --- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Adam Ebel"
> <electronicdx@y...>
> > wrote:
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > I need some assistance with figuring on how to build a low
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> > > from local radio stations in my area in the longwave band
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> > > 520 down to 150 kHz. Also would this filter circuit block out
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> > > HF interference as well from strong local shortwave
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> > > BTW, this is a great group, and I hope everyone enjoys and
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> > > wanted to share something with newbies and hobbyist, etc
here. :
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > > http://www.geocities.com/gccengineering/
> > >
> > > Adam E.

90. Super 909 modification would improve reception on LW?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-02-09 00:08:58 UTC
From: Adam E.
Topic: 90 Message: 90

Group, I have something to ask, When I get a Super 909 modification from http://www.radiolabs.com would this upgrade improve longwave radio reception if used with a outdoor antenna and would this improve NDB DXing, with the new filters for better selectivity? Let me know thanks. I will see about getting an upgrade for my DX-398 that my other friend may give to me.

Adam E. LW radio DXer

91. Re: Super 909 modification would improve reception on LW?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-02-10 23:37:25 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 90 Message: 91

Hello Adam.

It's hard to say if this will help; the description isn't terribly specific as to what they do to the radio.

They mention "increased sensitivity". Depending on how they do it, a mod that increases sensitivity may very well make LF / VLF problems with intermod and overloading MUCH WORSE.

Overloading problems in an RF amplifier stage can be improved by increasing the static current drawn by the stage, done by changing the stage's biasing. That's what I figure this mod is NOT doing; in a portable, the name of the game is maximum battery life, and setting up a stage to pull MORE battery current is, re. that goal, obviously counterproductive.

My guess is that they're increasing apparent sensitivity by just replacing the first RF amp transistor with one which has higher gain, a better noise figure, or both.

The changing of IF filters that they mention may very well give a significant improvement in selectivity... it's hard to say without more specifics on what they're putting in, and what they're replacing with them.

Sorry I can't be more specific on this; they just don't tell enough about what they're doing to the radio.

73's,

Tom, W9LBB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Adam E." <gccengineering@y...> wrote:
>
>
> Group, I have something to ask, When I get a Super 909
> modification from http://www.radiolabs.com would this upgrade
> improve longwave radio reception if used with a outdoor antenna
> and would this improve NDB DXing, with the new filters for better
> selectivity? Let me know thanks. I will see about getting an
> upgrade for my DX-398 that my other friend may give to me.
>
> Adam E. LW radio DXer

92. Re: [lowfrequency] Re: Super 909 modification would improve reception on LW?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-02-11 12:15:49 UTC
From: Adam Ebel
Topic: 90 Message: 92

Tom, I understand, Since you are a ham I do believe you. Would Kwia be a better choice in just selectivity and sensitivity? Maybe I will just buy one already assembled to their specs from radiolabs and test it out, and then write a true review on my website. I never heard about them being FCC certified and bonded in their catalog. Thanks for giving me good insight about this.

Adam E.
gccengineering

Tom Adams <w9lbb@...> wrote:

Hello Adam.

It's hard to say if this will help; the description isn't terribly specific as to what they do to the radio.

They mention "increased sensitivity". Depending on how they do it, a mod that increases sensitivity may very well make LF / VLF problems with intermod and overloading MUCH WORSE.

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Sorry I can't be more specific on this; they just don't tell enough about what they're doing to the radio.

73's,

Tom, W9LBB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Adam E." <gccengineering@y...> wrote:
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> Group, I have something to ask, When I get a Super 909
> modification from http://www.radiolabs.com would this upgrade
> improve longwave radio reception if used with a outdoor antenna
> and would this improve NDB DXing, with the new filters for better
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>
> Adam E. LW radio DXer

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[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

93. The newest construction project

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-02-17 18:09:53 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 93 Message: 93

Well... the Super Loopstick project is proceding nicely; a second loopstick is currently under construction to cover a tuning range of 5 - 25 KHz (in tuned mode), and also serving as an untuned H field antenna for natural radio phenomenon. I seem to be on a roll on LF / VLF projects, so another one is beginning to take shape.

When you have more than one receiver, the use of "multicouplers" is common to use one antenna to feed multiple outputs. It's necessary to isolate the receivers from each other to prevent the oscillator leakage in one rig from interfering with the others, and to provide a good impedance match to the receiver input. The multicoupler is a much better alternative than using cable TV splitters for the job, because the multicoupler uses amplification to overcome the losses inherent in splitters... and they can be substantial.

On HF, I've been using a military surplus multicoupler (one antenna in, six outputs to receivers) for years, with excellent results by feeding it with a wideband HF antenna (a T2FD). However, there are a couple of problems with that approach.

First, and this is minor, is that my multicoupler uses tubes. I'm in the process of eliminating the tube gear in my shack wherever I can.

Next... no matter HOW good your receiver is, the multicoupler ahead of it determines the ultimate noise figure of the receiving system. A multicoupler is necessarily a broadband (untuned) device; in the case of the military unit I'm using, the frequency coverage is 2 - 30 MHz, and it gives a noise figure of about 9 DB. The receivers I'm using with it have, for the WORST receiver of the lot, a noise figure of 3 DB or less.

Finally, and most important here, a multicoupler for LF / VLF is a VERY rare bird indeed... and taking a quick census here, there are at least seven VLF receivers here in regular use.

Therefore... it's time to design a multicoupler for my shack, and come up with a version that covers LF / VLF.

I'm in the math stages at this point, but the project doesn't seem too difficult to pull off.

A good multicoupler consists of three RF handling stages. First is a filter after the antenna input to define the unit's frequency range. Next comes an amplifier block to set the noise figure and provide a bit of gain to overcome the losses in the following stage. Finally, a splitter hybrid to provide the individual, impedance matched outputs to the receivers.

At this point, I'm into the VLF version; the HF version can be built from "off the shelf" parts that are commonly available as hamfest junk... it's the VLF version requires some intellectual input here.

The filter and multiport impedance matching / splitting hybrid is a simple matter for HF, but unless you get REAL lucky on the hamfest & EBAY safaris, finding something that works below 500 KHz is a matter of incredible luck.

Once again, I'm turning to my hamfest ferrite cores here. I'm seeing a low pass filter for the input, most likely a Chebyshev configuration using inductors wound on these cores. I'm looking at a cutoff freq of about 550 KHz, and enough sections in series to give a fairly sharp roll off above that frequency, hopefully eliminating a lot of over-loading signals from the AM broadcast band.

For the amplifier block, I believe I've lucked out. I got hold of an amplifier from Minicircuits that goes 2.5 KHz to 175 MHz, with a noise figure of about 5 DB. Noise figure on LF / VLF isn't that much of a problem; according to the CCIR noise study curves (and from practical experience) the noise floor figures there are MUCH higher than on HF; having a receiver noise figure that's below the natural noise floor is sweet from an engineering standpoint, but in practical terms it's not of any use. This amplifier block should do nicely re. that standpoint.

The amp gain is about 10 DB, which is a good match for the projected hybrid losses. Too high a gain will raise the overall noise figure of the finished system unnecessarily.

Another good part of this amp block is that it's essentially a POWER amplifier rather than a voltage amp; that's what's needed here to drive a power splitter hybrid. Before 1 DB compression, the amplifier is good for about +25 DBm; with the expected signal input levels to it there shouldn't be any intermod mixing crud problems at all.

Finally... the output hybrid. Once again, I'm looking at the cores from the hamfest.

A hybrid is essentially a transformer network. A basic rule of thumb in transformer design is that a winding must have an Xl of 4 times or more of the impedance connected to it at the lowest frequency to be passed thru it. For 75 ohm inputs & outputs, that means an Xl of 300 ohms at the lowest frequency (in this case, 10 KHz).

Quick tests on these ferrite cores show that a winding of only 15 turns more than meets the inductive reactance requirement. I think I'm on the right track here.

Stay tuned on this one.

73's,

Mr. T. , W9LBB

94. Re: Super 909 modification would improve reception on LW?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-02-17 18:18:22 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 90 Message: 94

Hello Adam.

I haven't had any experience with actually using Kiwa stuff, but I've always heard good things about thier products.

Re. FCC certification; there's little in the way of certification on receiving gear (beyond frequency coverage), and virtually NOTHING in terms of unstandard uses like hams and SWLs. The main point of the FCC certification system is to make sure transmitting equipment is clean and legal.

73's,

Mr. T., W9LBB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, Adam Ebel <gccengineering@y...> wrote:
> Tom, I understand, Since you are a ham I do believe you.
Would Kwia be a better choice in just selectivity and sensitivity?
Maybe I will just buy one already assembled to their specs from
radiolabs and test it out, and then write a true review on my
website. I never heard about them being FCC certified and bonded in
their catalog. Thanks for giving me good insight about this.
>
> Adam E.
> gccengineering
>

95. Group settings changes

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-02-17 18:47:25 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 95 Message: 95

Troops,

I'm new at this Yahoo group thing, and I just made a discovery re.
the group settings.

Unbeknownst to me, it was set up so that only I could upload/download
materials (files, pictures, etc.).

I never meant things to be that way here... it was strictly an
accident.

That has been changed. Most member functions have now been reset to
make things more useful for everyone.

My apologies for the error. It's been corrected now.

Mr. T.

96. Filter Design Software

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-02-19 06:36:25 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 96 Message: 96

Howdy.

This is mainly meant for Adam, but most everyone here should find
this link useful.

I found a website with a rather good interactive L/C filter program
set up.

http://www-users.cs.york.ac.uk/~fisher/lcfilter/

Mr. T.

97. Ham Meetup ?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-03-15 02:18:21 UTC
From: Mr Gray
Topic: 97 Message: 97

Howdi folks ! Glad to be aboard ! Is there a group of hams with a schedule on 80 40 or 20m for discussion?

Thanks !

Mr Gray

98. Super Loopstick

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-04-02 06:03:58 UTC
From: Brian Reay
Topic: 98 Message: 98

Hi All,

I'm new to the group so please excuse this question if it has come up before (I couldn't see it in the archives).

Which cores are used in the Super Loop Antenna, please?

73

Brian
G8OSN
www.g8osn.org.uk

99. Re: Super Loopstick

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-04-14 05:33:44 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 98 Message: 99

Hello Brian!

Welcome to the group!

The cores that I came up with are Phillips T36/23/15-3C85.

There's more on this project; an even LARGER version of the Super Loopstick is nearing completion now.

The winding is nearly 7 feet long, using about 1000 feet of #26 wird wound bifilar with 30 pound test fishing line.

When the core was inserted, inductance readings on my meter are quite shaky (my meter goes flaky on large inductance values), but appears to be somewhere between 150 and 180 Henries.

In any event, it's tuning 7.15 - 39 KHz with the same variable cap (60 - 2200 pf). It's hard to calculate the actual inductance from that, because this coil has a LOT of winding capacitance that really complicates the calculations.

73's,

Tom, W9LBB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Brian Reay" <brian.reay@e...> wrote:
>
> Hi All,
>
> I'm new to the group so please excuse this question if it has come up
> before (I couldn't see it in the archives).
>
> Which cores are used in the Super Loop Antenna, please?
>
> 73
>
> Brian
> G8OSN
> www.g8osn.org.uk

100. MW BCB Traps anyone?.....

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-04-17 17:31:27 UTC
From: g0aqi@aol.com
Topic: 100 Message: 100

Hi Group.
I'm trying to find some designs for MW BCB traps, (series and/or parallel), that I can build, using small toroids wound with the right amount of turns and with an appropriate capacitor/trimmer.

I've got too many strong MW stations around here, (London UK) which cause all sorts of blocking/intermod/crossmod, when I try to do any Longwave, (or indeed shortwave) listening, especially when using a decent length wire aerial. I'm also using a loop I just got which, although has less noise, still gets a hammering from the local broadcasters.

There are a lot of different materials/uses that Toroids are made from/for, but I'm beginning to get a handle on it thankfully, with the information contained in the Palomar Engineers' Catalogue.

I'd be really grateful for any info that will enable me to build them. I'm going to need about five or six, separately tuned to each of the strong local signals. I'll probably house them in a screened enclousure just to be sure. I built some traps years ago with salvaged MW coils from an old car radio - trouble is, you just can't get coils like that anymore :-(

Cheers everyone.

Lou

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

101. Answering my own question!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-04-19 09:27:11 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 101 Message: 101

Howdy!

A while back I asked the group if anyone could confirm that station CFH (Canadian Forces WX broadcast from Halifax, NS) was actually using it's announced frequency at 122.0 KHz; I have never been able to hear anything there, and Halifax seemingly isn't all that far away from me.

There was no reply from anyone here on that question, but last night we
got an LF band opening; CFH was copied here loud and clear. In fact, I got some pretty clean teletype copy and some FAXed WX maps out of them!

The past few years we've lost a number of Canadian LF signals, but it appears that CFH is indeed still there.

Tom, W9LBB

102. Re: [lowfrequency] Answering my own question!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-04-19 16:52:38 UTC
From: Adam Ebel
Topic: 101 Message: 102

Tom, If I had a radio receiver that went down that low I would have copied it for you still thats great that you copied it well during the opening. I wish I could hear it. My radio receivers mostly cover 144 to 353 kHz and 150 kHz to 519 kHz and 300 Hz to 20 kHz for VLF spherics and 60 kHz. Still thats great that you copied a weather signal from Canada. Most radio makers need to make good receivers that cover 10 kHz to 519 kHz. Next time I will look into better full coverage longwave receivers. Also its best that should get a VLF converter for now and I will copy it here in Virginia Beach VA Take care 73 Adam E. .

Tom Adams <w9lbb@...> wrote:

Howdy!

A while back I asked the group if anyone could confirm that station
CFH (Canadian Forces WX broadcast from Halifax, NS) was actually using
it's announced frequency at 122.0 KHz; I have never been able to hear
anything there, and Halifax seemingly isn't all that far away from me.

There was no reply from anyone here on that question, but last night
we
got an LF band opening; CFH was copied here loud and clear. In fact, I
got some pretty clean teletype copy and some FAXed WX maps out of
them!

The past few years we've lost a number of Canadian LF signals, but it
appears that CFH is indeed still there.

Tom, W9LBB

How LOW can your rig GO?

Yahoo! Groups Links

To visit your group on the web, go to:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lowfrequency/

To unsubscribe from this group, send an email to:
lowfrequency-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to the Yahoo! Terms of Service.

Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
http://mail.yahoo.com

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

103. Indoor / Outdoor Longwave Antenna for Space Limited Areas

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-05-30 23:06:01 UTC
From: Adam E.
Topic: 103 Message: 103

Hello,

What is a good size wire antenna for the indoors for to bring in longwave radio broadcasts and beacons? Would a loaded coil work for 23 foot wire antennas? Trying to improve reception at my fathers house guest room. I also have lots of phone wire what good is that for longwave?

I have my YB-400 PE that brings in stations well with just its ferrite rod antenna, but the DX-398, 392 pulls in LW poorly. If I built a loop antenna, what would the best size loop for the longwave bands 150 - 500 kHz?

Still I cannot figure out how many turns I need for just a 14-365 pF or 14 - 500 pF for a 1 or 3 foot loop. rjeloop3 is a good program but its hard to use and the measurements are in millimeters. Is there any antenna books for indoor and outdoor LW/VLF antennas only? Can someone help me out here? I am little lost when it comes to building LW loops correctly. Thanks for a good LW group.

Adam Ebel

Happy Memorial Day

104. RTTY,DATA TRANSMISSIONS

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-06-18 21:27:57 UTC
From: ve6pg
Topic: 104 Message: 104

HI FROM TIM...WHAT ARE PEOPLE USING TO DECODE THE DIFFERENT RTTY AND DATA TRANSMISSIONS? LAST NIGHT,ABT 10PM EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME,I WAS HEARING DIFFERENT MODES OF TRANSMISSIONS. YEARS AGO I ATTEMPTED TO DECODE THE RTTY,BUT WITH NO LUCK. AS WELL, LAST NIGHT I WAS HEARING DIFFERENT STUFF,AROUND 425KC,AS WELL AS 1740,AND 1785KC. THESE TRANSMISSIONS SOUNDED THE SAME..GOOD SIGS,SO I'M CURIOUS AS TO WHAT THEY MAY BE...THANKS...TIM..

105. Re: RTTY,DATA TRANSMISSIONS

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-07-10 01:13:48 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 104 Message: 105

Hi!

Well... the one you mention @ 425 KHz i can't help with; doesn't ring a bell. However, a bit higher up (518 KHz) is the NAVTEX transmissions (170 Hz shift, 100 baud, in SITOR mode). In Canada, you should be hearing them from both the Canadian and US Coast Guard.

The stuff in 1740 & 1785 KHz (many others out there too, including inside of the 160 meter ham band) are alleged to be marker transmitters attached to floating drift nets used by fishermen. I've never been able to decide these, or even get a good handle on what sort of format they transmit in. I hear a lot of those here too, and I
have my doubts about what they really are; somehow, the drift net claim just doesn't seem credible to me; that story says that they're in the Gulf of Mexico, and that would take a LOT of power. Besides that I hear them all year round at night; unless I'm mistaken, commercial fishing is a seasonal thing.

As far as decoders are concerned, a lot of folks are using PCs with various shareware programs, feeding the signal into the sound card. Here I'm using the Universal M-8000, a stand alone decoder box.

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "ve6pg" <ve6pg@y...> wrote:
> HI FROM TIM...WHAT ARE PEOPLE USING TO DECODE THE DIFFERENT RTTY AND
> DATA TRANSMISSIONS? LAST NIGHT,ABT 10PM EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME,I WAS
> HEARING DIFFERENT MODES OF TRANSMISSIONS. YEARS AGO I ATTEMPTED TO
> DECODE THE RTTY,BUT WITH NO LUCK. AS WELL, LAST NIGHT I WAS HEARING
> DIFFERENT STUFF,AROUND 425KC,AS WELL AS 1740,AND 1785KC. THESE
> TRANSMISSIONS SOUNDED THE SAME..GOOD SIGS,SO I'M CURIOUS AS TO WHAT
> THEY MAY BE...THANKS...TIM..

106. Mystery station... Anybody got a clue?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-07-11 09:27:22 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 106 Message: 106

Speaking of digital transmissions...

The last week or so I've been getting an FSK station on 136.00 KHz. It's putting in a pretty strong signal here in southern Wisconsin, in spite of the usual summer static.

I finally got around to attacking it with the digital decoder this morning, with no success.

It is very much like the US Navy signals on VLF; 60 Hz shift, and it appears to be running at a 50 baud rate. Attempts to copy it in Baudot mode result in gibberish, just like the encrypted Navy stuff.

Can't find any references that list anything on that frequency, but propagation and gut instinct hunches are telling me it might be one of the long missing Canadian Navy LF stations coming back on the air... but that's only a hunch. There used to be a number of them in the 130 - 150 KHz range.

Does anybody know who this bird is, and where he's located?

Thanks,

Tom, W9LBB

107. RF AMMETERS

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-08-06 04:03:37 UTC
From: ve6pg
Topic: 107 Message: 107

HI FROM TIM...I'M LOOKING FOR PLANS FOR RF AMMETERS...ANY IDEAS?...SK.

108. 1750 meter usb transmitter

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-08-09 13:16:38 UTC
From: leekwon1
Topic: 108 Message: 108

hi everybody i am new to this group and looking for schematics and or plans for a 1750 usb voice transmitter. Lee

109. Re: RF AMMETERS

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-08-09 13:43:47 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 107 Message: 109

Hello Tim.

RF ammeters can be a problem. I don't know of any plans for building your own, but there are still a lot of WW2 vintage instruments out there for just a dollar or two at hamfests. They were usually scrapped from small, low power field radios.

I was surprised to find some with very low ranges (suitable for ham type experiments). The smallest I've run into so far is 150 MA full scale.

Finding a small RF ammeter when you need it is such a problem that I've looked at other methods of indicating and measuring RF output, mainly by playing with the basic RF power equation "I squared x R = W"; the simplest method is to measure RF voltage and find power from that (a pocket calculator is your FRIEND!). The only problem is that in this case you have to know more about the load that you're feeding the power to, specifically the load's RF impedance... but once again math is your friend, using the ability to calculate the reactances of the various load elements.

73's,

Tom, W9LBB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "ve6pg" <ve6pg@y...> wrote:
> HI FROM TIM...I'M LOOKING FOR PLANS FOR RF AMMETERS...ANY IDEAS?...SK.

110. Re: RF AMMETERS

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-08-09 14:01:59 UTC
From: ny2h
Topic: 107 Message: 110

Hello Tom, Tim & the group,

I'm new to this forum, this is my first post. But I have an easy answer to your question.

RF ammeters are very easy and simple to make. There are two types of rf ammeter, the thermocouple and one based on current transformers. Thermocouple ammeters are not so easy to make, but a current transformer is quite simple. A current transformer is easily wound on a ferrite torroid. A current transformer is a transformer used in instrumentation to assist in measuring current. It utilizes the strength of the magnetic field around the conductor to form an induced current that can then be applied across a resistance to form a proportional voltage.

Now how to build one for LF?
Check the following excellent web sites:

http://www.w1tag.com/RFA.htm

http://www.computerpro.com/~lyle/currprob/currprob.htm

http://www.picks.plus.com/software/LFtunemeter.pdf

73 Warren K2ORS/WD2XGJ

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@y...> wrote:
> Hello Tim.
>
> RF ammeters can be a problem. I don't know of any plans for building
> your own, but there are still a lot of WW2 vintage instruments out
> there for just a dollar or two at hamfests. They were usually
scrapped
> from small, low power field radios.
>
> I was surprised to find some with very low ranges (suitable for ham
> type experiments). The smallest I've run into so far is 150 MA full
> scale.
>
> Finding a small RF ammeter when you need it is such a problem that
> I've looked at other methods of indicating and measuring RF output,
> mainly by playing with the basic RF power equation
> "I squared x R = W"; the simplest method is to measure RF voltage
> and find power from that (a pocket calculator is your FRIEND!). The
> only problem is that in this case you have to know more about the
> load that you're feeding the power to, specifically the load's RF
> impedance... but once again math is your friend, using the ability

> to calculate the reactances of the various load elements.
>
> 73's,
>
> Tom, W9LBB
>
> --- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "ve6pg" <ve6pg@y...> wrote:
> > HI FROM TIM...I'M LOOKING FOR PLANS FOR RF AMMETERS...ANY
> IDEAS?...SK.

111. Re: [lowfrequency] Re: RF AMMETERS

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-08-09 14:10:23 UTC
From: tim smith
Topic: 107 Message: 111

..TOM TNX FER THE REPLY...IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT MORE INFO ON RF AMMETERS ISNT AVAILABLE,BUT I DID RECEIVE 2 ARTICLES ABOUT BUILDING THEM. THE IDEA IS TO DETERMINE WHAT THE APPROX.CURRENT IS ON THE OPEN-WIRE LINE. I DO ALOT OF BUILDING ANTENNAS,AND OLD GEAR,MAINLY AM STUFF..HOME BREW LADDER LINE REQUIRES 2 AMMETERS,ONE ON EACH LINE,TO DETERMINE -TRUE- BALANCE ON THE TRANSMITTED SIGNAL.THE TYPICAL HAM ANTENNA TUNER THAT WILL "TUNE" OPEN WIRE LINE,GENERALLY TUNES FOR SWR,AND MORE TIMES THAN NOT,THE ANTENNA IS NOT BALANCED. THE TUNERS I USE HERE ARE HOMEBREW,LARGE INDUCTOR WITH LINK COUPLING.THERE ARE NO SWITCHES (TAPS) ON THESE TUNERS,SO WITH RF AMMETERS I WILL BE ABLE TO GET A TRUE BALANCE.I JUST MOVE THE TAPS ACCORDINGLY. IT REALLY IS AMAZING TO SEE HOW THE TRANSMITTER PERFORMS,WHEN YOU USE A LINK-COULPLED TUNER AS COMPARED TO ONE WITH A BALUN,AND "FIXED" POSITIONS ON THE INDUCTOR.A GOOD EXAMPLE IS MY VIKING2,ON SAY 75 METRES. WITH THE LINK COUPLED TUNER,I ACHIEVE EXCELLANT RF OUT,WITH LOWER PLATE CURRENT,AS COMPARED TO THE SAME ANTENNA,WITH ANY NUMBER OF OTHER TUNERS,WITH A BALUN,AND SET INDUCTANCE POINTS...73..TIM...SK..

--- Tom Adams <w9lbb@...> wrote:

> Hello Tim.
>
> RF ammeters can be a problem. I don't know of any
> plans for building
> your own, but there are still a lot of WW2 vintage
> instruments out
> there for just a dollar or two at hamfests. They
> were usually scrapped
> from small, low power field radios.
>
> I was surprised to find some with very low ranges
> (suitable for ham
> type experiments). The smallest I've run into so far
> is 150 MA full
> scale.
>
> Finding a small RF ammeter when you need it is such
> a problem that
> I've looked at other methods of indicating and

> measuring RF output,
> mainly by playing with the basic RF power equation
> "I squared x R = W"; the simplest method is to
> measure RF voltage
> and find power from that (a pocket calculator is
> your FRIEND!). The
> only problem is that in this case you have to know
> more about the
> load that you're feeding the power to, specifically
> the load's RF
> impedance... but once again math is your friend,
> using the ability
> to calculate the reactances of the various load
> elements.
>
> 73's,
>
> Tom, W9LBB
>
> --- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "ve6pg"
> <ve6pg@y...> wrote:
> > HI FROM TIM...I'M LOOKING FOR PLANS FOR RF
> AMMETERS...ANY
> IDEAS?...SK.
>
>
>
>

Start your day with Yahoo! - make it your home page
http://www.yahoo.com/r/hs

112. interferance in AC power

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-08-10 19:39:34 UTC
From: Rasputin Novgorod
Topic: 112 Message: 112

> In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@y...> wrote:

> Yes, harmonics of the 60 Hz AC power are a BIG problem with any sort
> of VLF reception... it's amazing just how high the harmonics are
> readable. Chasing & eliminating them is a perpetual problem.
>
> Another problem you'll encounter is TV set horizontal oscillators at
> 15,734 Hz. Since the waveform isn't a sine wave, you'll see some big
> hairy harmonics of that one too.
>
> Power line crud and TV harmonics are mainly entering most receivers
> thru the AC line; the TV harmonics at least aren't radiated very
> efficiently.
>
> I lucked out on a dumpster dive, and got hold of a big AC isolation
> transformer meant for hospital use.
>
> Medical folks don't like leakage current from stray AC fields going
> thru somebody they're trying to do an EEG or EKG on; the hum messes
> up everything, not to mention the possibility of accidental electric
> shock if something in thier equipment fails. Thus, they use these
> transformers.
>
> The transformer breaks up ground loops, eliminating a LOT of AC power
> line harmonic noise. To reduce leakage currents caused by capacitive
> coupling between transformer windings, they arrange the windings to
> reduce said coupling to a minimum, plus add a copper shield BETWEEN
> the windings which gets tied to ground. That causes a reduction in
> the TV horizontal crud very nicely; without the transformer,
> my TV noise level goes up about 40 DB.

Excellent report from about a year ago.
I've installed a 230vac, 15 amp Sola isolation/autotransformer
between the breaker panel and my shack ($50 from a Hamfest);
so heavy I can barely carry it! (Note: most autotransformers
are ~not~ isolation; do check...)

This does the following:

1) Regulates the voltage; no more brownout or overvoltage.
2) Breaks any ground loops.
3) Eliminates common-mode interferance.
4) Isolates Utility ground from shack ground (MORE LATER).
5) Dampens spikes and incoming RF.

I'm very pleased with this and think it was the best $50
I've ever spent.

> A warning about using big transformers like this:
>
> If there's an AC power outage, even momentary, the magnetic
> field around the transformer collapses and generates a NASTY
> spike of "back EMF" voltage. The bigger the transformer, the
> bigger the spike. I may be overly paranoid about this, but
> IMHO the spike might well take out solid state devices.
>
> To guard against this problem, BOTH SIDES of the isolation
transformer
> are fitted with MOV spike suppressors (rated 130 VAC); one across
each
> winding, and one each from each winding end to ground.

Are you sure about this? It's running on AC, not DC, so windings
act like a choke and dampen any spikes; it doesn't make them,
as DC on a coil would. Indeed we count on the impedance of the
transformer to kill any spikes, RF and noise incoming.

Isolated Ground.

The isolation transformer isolates the power and ground lines.
The incoming line and the Sola metal transformer box I bonded
to the incoming utility ground.

On the shack side of the Sola the AC line is not grounded
to the Sola. It is connected to the shack ground system
which bonds all the AC outlet grounds, antennas, metal racks,
equipment to a single point, then on to multiple ground rods.

The ground on the shack side is far superior, single point and
very quiet: compared to the Utility's clamp on a water pipe.
I wasn't anxious to connect the shack ground to the Utility
ground and bring all the external Utility borne ground noise.

BUT, that's illegal; all electics ~must~ be bonded to the utility
ground, so I wimped out and installed a jumper in the Sola box
connecting the Utility ground to the shack ground. To be honest,
I haven't detected any difference. Someday I'll pull the
jumper and put a scope on each ground and see how quiet they
really are.

I've been working hard to lower the noise floor here; about
all that's left is to move to the countryside to excape my
neighbours RF: TV's, light dimmers, etc.

Thoughts or comments; especially about pulling the jumper?

Sincerely,
/b

Start your day with Yahoo! - make it your home page
http://www.yahoo.com/r/hs

113. Re: 1750 meter usb transmitter

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-08-10 20:50:12 UTC
From: caladonia5560
Topic: 108 Message: 113

Check this out, it might be what your looking for. Les

http://www.w1tag.com/Phasing.htm

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "leekwon1" <leekwon1@y...> wrote:
> hi everybody i am new to this group and looking for schematics and or
> plans for a 1750 usb voice transmitter. Lee

114. Re: [lowfrequency] 1750 meter usb transmitter

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-08-11 16:17:24 UTC
From: Zack Widup
Topic: 108 Message: 114

Besides Les' reference to the webpage with the direct conversion SSb exciter, it seems this would be very easy to do with a downconverter. For instance, just generate the LO frequency of 3700 kHz with your favorite method (crystal osc, DDS, PLL, etc.) and mix it with your transceiver's output from 3860-3890 kHz using a DBM. Apply the appropriate filters to the output and amplify the resulting 160-190 kHz signal.

Zack W9SZ

On 8/9/05, leekwon1 <leekwon1@...> wrote:
> hi everybody i am new to this group and looking for schematics and or
> plans for a 1750 usb voice transmitter. Lee
>

115. 1750 meter ssb transmitter

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-08-18 13:23:56 UTC
From: leekwon1
Topic: 115 Message: 115

thanks for the info but i am only looking for a small self contained
qrp usb transmitter about the size of a cigar box including batteries.
Lee

116. Re: [lowfrequency] 1750 meter ssb transmitter

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-08-18 16:41:25 UTC
From: Zack Widup
Topic: 115 Message: 116

One of the best circuits I've found is the KK7B T2 board. I've made several of these myself for frequencies from 80 meters to 144 MHz. It should be no problem to make one for 160-190 kHz, etc.
If you want to buy the board and/or parts, Kanga US sells them. They also have the original QST article available for download at:
http://www.bright.net/~kanga/kanga/KK7B/kk7b_kits.htm
You could make your own boards with the info from the article and the board template which I think the ARRL still has available.
73, Zack W9SZ

On 8/18/05, leekwon1 <leekwon1@...> wrote:
>
> thanks for the info but i am only looking for a small self contained
> qrp usb transmitter about the size of a cigar box including batteries.
> Lee
>
>

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

117. LF antenna

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-10-24 15:35:44 UTC
From: Zack Widup
Topic: 117 Message: 117

Hi,
I am building the lowfer loop by KI0LE as in here:
http://www.cp.duluth.mn.us/~ki0le/pages/loop1.htm
With Fall here, the thunderstorm noise has decreased considerably. I hope to have a good season of receiving with this loop this winter.
Are any of the 500 kHz experimental stations in the USA active yet?
73, Zack W9SZ

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

118. Re: [lowfrequency] LF antenna

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-10-24 22:28:22 UTC
From: tim smith
Topic: 117 Message: 118

...zack..tim here in toronto...i've listened on
500kc,and not heard a thing,as yet..i think one
station is in the western n.y. area,just across the
lake,but i will continue to listen..what frequency do
you plan to use the loop for?..tim...sk..

--- Zack Widup <w9sz.zack@...> wrote:

> Hi,
> I am building the lowfer loop by KI0LE as in here:
> http://www.cp.duluth.mn.us/~ki0le/pages/loop1.htm
> With Fall here, the thunderstorm noise has
> decreased considerably. I hope
> to have a good season of receiving with this loop
> this winter.
> Are any of the 500 kHz experimental stations in the
> USA active yet?
> 73, Zack W9SZ
>
>
> [Non-text portions of this message have been
> removed]
>
>

_____
Yahoo! FareChase: Search multiple travel sites in one click.
http://farechase.yahoo.com

119. Re: [lowfrequency] LF antenna

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-10-25 13:24:21 UTC
From: Zack Widup
Topic: 117 Message: 119

Well, it will have tuning diodes (MVAM109) on the antenna for remote tuning, and I hope it will tune from 500 kHz down to 136 kHz. I've used several different equations and programs to try to calculate the inductance of the loop and they all give somewhat different values, so I will just have to experiment with the varactors to see what I can do.

73, Zack W9SZ
On 10/24/05, tim smith <ve6pg@...> wrote:

> ...zack..tim here in toronto...i've listened on
> 500kc,and not heard a thing,as yet..i think one
> station is in the western n.y. area,just across the
> lake,but i will continue to listen..what frequency do
> you plan to use the loop for?..tim...sk..
>

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

120. Re: [lowfrequency] Re: LF antenna

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-10-25 20:10:58 UTC
From: Brooke Clarke
Topic: 117 Message: 120

Hi Zack:

By measuring the resonant frequency and external capacitance then making
a plot (details don't come to mind) you can determine the self capacity
of your coil as well as it's inductance. With this knowledge you will
be able to calculate the external capacitance vs. frequency. This also
points out the need to minimize the self capacitance of the coil. There
are many ways do do this but they depend on the mechanical configuration
of the coil form.

Also note that a coil operating at it's self resonant frequency has a Q
of 1. It takes external capactive loading to bring up the Q.

73,

Brooke Clarke, N6GCE

--
w/Java http://www.PRC68.com
w/o Java http://www.pacificsites.com/~brooke/PRC68COM.shtml
http://www.precisionclock.com

>Date: Tue, 25 Oct 2005 08:24:21 -0500
> From: Zack Widup <w9sz.zack@...>
>Subject: Re: LF antenna
>
>Well, it will have tuning diodes (MVAM109) on the antenna for remote tuning,
>and I hope it will tune from 500 kHz down to 136 kHz. I've used several
>different equations and programs to try to calculate the inductance of the
>loop and they all give somewhat different values, so I will just have to
>experiment with the varactors to see what I can do.
>
>73, Zack W9SZ
>

121. Re: [lowfrequency] Re: LF antenna

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-10-25 20:50:58 UTC
From: Zack Widup
Topic: 117 Message: 121

Hi Brooke,
Yep, I know all that, I just haven't gotten around to doing it yet. Just finished the frame for the loop on Sunday evening minutes before it started to rain. Now to wind it ... and make measurements and get it going. Another weekend project ...
73, Zack W9SZ

On 10/25/05, Brooke Clarke <brooke@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Zack:
>
> By measuring the resonant frequency and external capacitance then making
> a plot (details don't come to mind) you can determine the self capacity
> of your coil as well as it's inductance. With this knowledge you will
> be able to calculate the external capacitance vs. frequency. This also
> points out the need to minimize the self capacitance of the coil. There
> are many ways do do this but they depend on the mechanical configuration
> of the coil form.
>
> Also note that a coil operating at it's self resonant frequency has a Q
> of 1. It takes external capactive loading to bring up the Q.
>
> 73,
>
> Brooke Clarke, N6GCE
>
>

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

122. idea for vlf antenna

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-11-23 22:53:17 UTC
From: kc0lwn
Topic: 122 Message: 122

I have a toroidal current transformer from a nuclear power plant. It is quite big and heavy. Instead of winding an antenna with several thousands turns is it possible to use this for reception?

123. Re: [lowfrequency] Digest Number 70

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-11-24 21:32:03 UTC
From: Brooke Clarke
Topic: 123 Message: 123

Hi kc:

No. Toroidal cores have a closed magnetic path. That's one of the
reasons they are used.
If when in the original application it radiated that would not be good.

Have Fun,

Brooke Clarke, N6GCE

--
w/Java http://www.PRC68.com
w/o Java http://www.pacificsites.com/~brooke/PRC68COM.shtml
http://www.precisionclock.com

>Date: Wed, 23 Nov 2005 22:53:17 -0000
> From: "kc0lwn" <kc0lwn@...>
>Subject: idea for vlf antenna
>
>I have a toroidal current transformer from a nuclear power plant. It is
>quite big and heavy. Instead of winding an antenna with several
>thousands turns is it possible to use this for reception?
>

124. VLF

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-11-25 14:09:25 UTC
From: Dave
Topic: 124 Message: 124

No... It would be the worst antenna ever. Almost all of the magnetic flux lies within the geometry of the toroid.

/Dave

>
> I have a toroidal current transformer from a nuclear power plant. It is
> quite big and heavy. Instead of winding an antenna with several
> thousands turns is it possible to use this for reception?

125. Re: VLF

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-11-25 22:58:23 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 124 Message: 125

Hi.

>> No... It would be the worst antenna ever. Almost all of the magnetic flux lies within the geometry of the toroid. <<

Agreed. However, it might make a HELL of a loading coil when used in the downlead from a longwire antenna!

That may sound a bit flippant, but I'm serious. I find the biggest problem with LF / VLF reception is the massive impedance mismatches between antennas and receivers. You can easily lose 30 - 40 DB worth of signal voltage to the receiver input due to the capacitive reactance of an antenna that's mechanically reasonable for the average hobbyist. Throwing in a huge hunk of inductive reactance like that current transformer might well give useful improvement on a hunk of wire used for receiving at LF or VLF, by tuning out the cap reactance and lowering the overall feedpoint impedance of the antenna.

73's,

Tom, W9LBB

PS- Right now I'm in DEEP doodoo over here. lost ALL of the antennas to high winds this past week.

126. long wire

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-11-27 19:32:32 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 126 Message: 126

Hi I have been playing with a 200 foot long wire however this morning I ran onto more noise using the long wire when disconnected noise left and cw signal came up...I am using the ant with a Kenwood R-100 is there anything esle that I can do to help...

_____
Yahoo! Mail - PC Magazine Editors' Choice 2005
http://mail.yahoo.com

127. Re: [lowfrequency] long wire

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-11-27 21:30:01 UTC
From: larry
Topic: 126 Message: 127

Are you using any kind of antenna coupler, with the long wire...If so what model number. and maker...
Larry ve3fxq

----- Original Message -----
From: Dennis Williard
To: lowfrequency ; VLf
Sent: Sunday, November 27, 2005 2:32 PM
Subject: [lowfrequency] long wire

Hi I have been playing with a 200 foot long wire
however this morning I ran onto more noise using the
long wire when disconnected noise left and cw signal
came up...I am using the ant with a Kenwood R-100 is
there anything esle that I can do to help...

_____
Yahoo! Mail - PC Magazine Editors' Choice 2005
http://mail.yahoo.com

How LOW can your rig GO?

YAHOO! GROUPS LINKS

a.. Visit your group "lowfrequency" on the web.

b.. To unsubscribe from this group, send an email to:
lowfrequency-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

c.. Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to the Yahoo! Terms of Service.

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

128. Re: long wire

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-11-28 19:57:50 UTC
From: caladonia5560
Topic: 126 Message: 128

I have been using a homebrew 18 ft vertical antenna mounted about 20
feet off the ground with good results. It works much better than my
long wire, which picks up too much local noise and is almost unusable
on LF at my location.

Les Layton
Las Vegas, NV

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, Dennis Williard <ka3bvj@y...> wrote:
>
> Hi I have been playing with a 200 foot long wire
> however this morning I ran onto more noise using the
> long wire when disconnected noise left and cw signal
> came up...I am using the ant with a Kenwood R-100 is
> there anything esle that I can do to help...
>
>
>
>
> _____________________________________
> Yahoo! Mail - PC Magazine Editors' Choice 2005
> http://mail.yahoo.com
>

129. Re: [lowfrequency] Digest Number 73

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-11-28 23:09:23 UTC
From: Brooke Clarke
Topic: 129 Message: 129

Hi Dennis:

Just add a series variable inductance. If memory serves a 3.5 milli
henry is about right.
When the antenna is resonated the results are a fantastic improvement in
signal to noise ratio.

73,

Brooke Clarke, N6GCE

--
w/Java http://www.PRC68.com
w/o Java http://www.pacificsites.com/~brooke/PRC68COM.shtml
http://www.precisionclock.com

>Date: Sun, 27 Nov 2005 11:32:32 -0800 (PST)
> From: Dennis Williard <ka3bvj@...>
>Subject: long wire
>
>Hi I have been playing with a 200 foot long wire
>however this morning I ran onto more noise using the
>long wire when disconnected noise left and cw signal
>came up...I am using the ant with a Kenwood R-100 is
>there anything esle that I can do to help...
>

130. Re: [lowfrequency] long wire

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-11-29 22:59:52 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 126 Message: 130

no antenna coupler, just right into the radio the
r-1000 has a place to put a long wire on it...

--- larry <larya@...> wrote:

> Are you using any kind of antenna coupler, with the
> long wire...If so what model number. and maker...
> Larry ve3fxq
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Dennis Williard
> To: lowfrequency ; VLf
> Sent: Sunday, November 27, 2005 2:32 PM
> Subject: [lowfrequency] long wire
>
>
> Hi I have been playing with a 200 foot long wire
> however this morning I ran onto more noise using
> the
> long wire when disconnected noise left and cw
> signal
> came up...I am using the ant with a Kenwood R-100
> is
> there anything esle that I can do to help...
>
>
>
>
> _____
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> http://mail.yahoo.com
>
>
> How LOW can your rig GO?
>
>
>
>

> YAHOO! GROUPS LINKS
>
> a.. Visit your group "lowfrequency" on the web.
>
> b.. To unsubscribe from this group, send an
> email to:

> lowfrequency-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com
>
> c.. Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to the
> Yahoo! Terms of Service.
>
>
>

>
>
>
> [Non-text portions of this message have been
> removed]
>
>

_____
Start your day with Yahoo! - Make it your home page!
http://www.yahoo.com/r/hs

131. falling stars

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-12-14 23:00:02 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 131 Message: 131

On the way into work this morning around 4:15 am I got
to see 2 falling stars it was neat......

Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
http://mail.yahoo.com

132. Re: falling stars

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-12-16 02:55:14 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 131 Message: 132

Howdy, Dennis.

I know what you're saying about seeing falling stars. That puts me in mind of something that happened to me about 10 years ago.

The Space Shuttle was up, in an inclined orbit that would bring it quite a ways north. It was flying a RADAR mapping mission, in addition to having a ham aboard with 2 meter gear. The mapping RADAR antenna was supposed to be in the cargo bay, and they were flying the mission inverted with the bay doors open to fire straight down.

The pass that came closest to me was at about 4:00 AM (nearly a bullseye pass dead over Madison, Wisconsin), and I was in the shack with the 2 meter rig going, and a spectrum analyzer set up to look for the ground mapping RADAR signal.

My tracking software's pass time came and went... NOTHING. The shack was thick with cigarette smoke, so I decided to go outside for some fresh air.

Suddenly, in the predawn sky to the south was the brightest star I'd ever seen... moving northward VERY FAST!

It all came together in my mind instantly; the TOP of the shuttle is painted white, and she's inverted. At the height she was at, they were already in sunlight, even tho it was still dark directly below. That white paint was reflecting light like mad!

I scrambled to my truck for my binoculars... and just as the "star" was directly overhead I found it in the glasses. Delta wings on this star, and I could even make out the open bay doors.

From first sighting in the southern sky until she flew off over the horizon to the north-northeast was like 2 or 3 minutes.

I never got any sort of signals out of the shuttle pass, but actually SEEING it go overhead was an even BETTER experience. What a thrill!

73's,

Tom, W9LBB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, Dennis Williard <ka3bvj@y...> wrote:
>
> On the way into work this morning around 4:15 am I got
> to see 2 falling stars it was neat......
>

> _____
> Do You Yahoo!?
> Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
> http://mail.yahoo.com
>

133. Re: [lowfrequency] Re: falling stars

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-12-16 14:45:19 UTC
From: Zack Widup
Topic: 131 Message: 133

Wow, how cool can that be?

I've seen the shuttle a couple times but never like that.

The SRTM data is free for anyone to download. I use it in RadioMobile, a free software mainly used for my work at the other end of the spectrum - VHF thru microwaves - for path predictions.

BTW last Saturday night I was driving between Chicago and Champaign, and aftier I cleared the blizzard in the northern part of Illinois, the sky cleared and I saw at least 5 meteorites. I was wishing I was at home to try some meteor scatter!

73, Zack W9SZ

On 12/15/05, Tom Adams <w9lbb@...> wrote:
>
> Howdy, Dennis.
>
> I know what you're saying about seeing falling stars. That puts me in
> mind of something that happened to me about 10 years ago.
>
> The Space Shuttle was up, in an inclined orbit that would bring it
> quite a ways north. It was flying a RADAR mapping mission, in
> addition to having a ham aboard with 2 meter gear. The mapping RADAR
> antenna was supposed to be in the cargo bay, and they were flying the
> mission inverted with the bay doors open to fire straight down.
>
> The pass that came closest to me was at about 4:00 AM (nearly a
> bullseye pass dead over Madison, Wisconsin), and I was in the shack
> with the 2 meter rig going, and a spectrum analyzer set up to look
> for the ground mapping RADAR signal.
>
> My tracking software's pass time came and went... NOTHING. The shack
> was thick with cigarette smoke, so I decided to go outside for some
> fresh air.
>
> Suddenly, in the predawn sky to the south was the brightest star I'd
> ever seen... moving northward VERY FAST!
>
> It all came together in my mind instantly; the TOP of the shuttle is
> painted white, and she's inverted. At the height she was at, they
> were already in sunlight, even tho it was still dark directly below.
> That white paint was reflecting light like mad!
>
> I scrambled to my truck for my binoculars... and just as the "star"

> was directly overhead I found it in the glasses. Delta wings on this
> star, and I could even make out the open bay doors.
>
> From first sighting in the southern sky until she flew off over the
> horizon to the north-northeast was like 2 or 3 minutes.
>
> I never got any sort of signals out of the shuttle pass, but actually
> SEEING it go overhead was an even BETTER experience. What a thrill!
>
>
> 73's,
>
> Tom, W9LBB
>
>

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

134. PLI

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-12-21 19:18:24 UTC
From: caladonia5560
Topic: 134 Message: 134

Has anyone else in the western US been hearing beacon station PLI on 183.5 KHZ (A one watt part 15, CW beacon) located in Burbank CA? I am in Las Vegas, approximately 200 miles away. PLI has been coming in with very loud signals for the past month after dark. I am using a vertical antenna and NRD-525 receiver, but I have easily heard PLI on any of my receivers capable of LF including a WW2 vintage National RBL-5.

Les

135. Re: Mystery station... Anybody got a clue?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-12-22 17:15:21 UTC
From: ve7cyb
Topic: 106 Message: 135

Perhaps CFH in Halifax?
It's strong here in BC, evenings.

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@y...> wrote:
>
> Speaking of digital transmissions...
>
> The last week or so I've been getting an FSK station on 136.00 KHz.
> It's putting in a pretty strong signal here in southern Wisconsin, in
> spite of the usual summer static.
>
> I finally got around to attacking it with the digital decoder this
> morning, with no success.
>
> It is very much like the US Navy signals on VLF; 60 Hz shift, and it
> appears to be running at a 50 baud rate. Attempts to copy it in
> Baudot mode result in gibberish, just like the encrypted Navy stuff.
>
> Can't find any references that list anything on that frequency, but
> propagation and gut instinct hunches are telling me it might be one
> of the long missing Canadian Navy LF stations coming back on the
> air... but that's only a hunch. There used to be a number of them in
> the 130 - 150 KHz range.
>
> Does anybody know who this bird is, and where he's located?
>
> Thanks,
>
> Tom, W9LBB
>

136. Application to Industry Canada via RAC

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-12-22 17:38:00 UTC
From: ve7cyb
Topic: 136 Message: 136

It's off and gone ... the application to get on 137 KHz with
experimental authorization. Lets see if it's approved!
That basis for the experiment is to measure phase drift
rate and how it would limit or allow use of slow BPSK.
The trick is to sync both the TX and RX sites with "atomic
clock like" stability in order to measure the drift.
Stability comes from two low cost GPS receivers that
PLL lock to the atomic clocks on the satellites ... both
in lock-step. The GPS receiver that's PLL locked has a
local oscillator of 16.368 MHz. When divided by integer
119, it becomes 137.546218 KHz for on-air TX and RX.
So here's the question. Is it exactly 16.36800000 MHz
or some other funny decimal fraction that they use in
the GPS system? It doesn't matter as far as the experiment
goes, since both TX and RX sites track exactly anyway,
but for calibration of my frequency counter down to
the one Hz or sub Hz level before tweeking the master
time base.... Just because the VCXO (voltage controlled
crystal oscillator) is marked 16.368 doesn't necessarily
mean there's not more significant decimal places when locked!
Any idea's?
Robert, VE7CYB

137. Re: [lowfrequency] Application to Industry Canada via RAC

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-12-22 22:56:26 UTC
From: Brooke Clarke
Topic: 136 Message: 137

Hi Robert:

I'm not aware of any GPS receiver that actually locks it's local
oscillator. What's done is to characterize the clock error in software
and use that corrected software clock for the position fixes.

There are GPS disciplined oscillators where the 1 Pulse Per Second
output from a Timing type GPS receiver (like the soon to be replaced
Motorola M12+T from http://www.synergy-gps.com/), see:
http://www.pacificsites.com/~brooke/PRS10.shtml

There are home brew versions, see:
http://www.rt66.com/%7Eshera/
and units coming out of cell phone sites like the Z3801.
All the above typically have a 1 PPS and 10 MHz output that in turn can
be used to derive any frequency you need.

73,

Brooke Clarke, N6GCE

--
w/Java http://www.PRC68.com
w/o Java http://www.pacificsites.com/~brooke/PRC68COM.shtml
http://www.precisionclock.com

>Date: Thu, 22 Dec 2005 17:38:00 -0000
> From: "ve7cyb" <marinetek@...>
>Subject: Application to Industry Canada via RAC
>
>It's off and gone ... the application to get on 137 KHz with
>experimental authorization. Lets see if it's approved!
>That basis for the experiment is to measure phase drift
>rate and how it would limit or allow use of slow BPSK.
>The trick is to sync both the TX and RX sites with "atomic
>clock like" stability in order to measure the drift.
>Stability comes from two low cost GPS receivers that
>PLL lock to the atomic clocks on the satellites ... both
>in lock-step. The GPS receiver that's PLL locked has a
>local oscillator of 16.368 MHz. When divided by integer
>119, it becomes 137.546218 KHz for on-air TX and RX.
>So here's the question. Is it exactly 16.36800000 MHz
>or some other funny decimal fraction that they use in
>the GPS system? It doesn't matter as far as the experiment
>goes, since both TX and RX sites track exactly anyway,
>but for calibration of my frequency counter down to
>the one Hz or sub Hz level before tweeking the master

>time base.... Just because the VCXO (voltage controlled
>crystal oscillator) is marked 16.368 doesn't necessarily
>mean there's not more significant decimal places when locked!
>Any idea's?
>Robert, VE7CYB
>

138. Re: Application to Industry Canada via RAC

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-12-23 01:05:53 UTC
From: ve7cyb
Topic: 136 Message: 138

The GPS units are Trimble Six-Vee modules. They have VCXO's
that are PLL trimmed with a error correction from the
corelators. You have to get into the module and tack
solder wires to a clock buffer signal. I suspect that
it comes from the satellite data chip rate. Besides this
it also has the 1PPS at the interface, that is also used
for the experiment, to set the PSK1 or BUAD of one.
Right now. I have the divide by 119 running in a 22V10
and another 22V10 for digital control of the PWM (pulse
width modulation). The PIC, also running from the 16.368 MHz,
uses the 1PPS to step through a cosine, in PWM, to drive
the TX VFETs in the transmitter PA.
You do notice the arbitrary frequency, depending on the
the free-run cut of the crystal, and then the quick move
to the round frequency that's precise when it gets a sat.
lock and position. But how precise is the question. The
common frequency counter could be off a decimal fraction
of a Hz and I'd never know, seeing as there is nothing
available that would be more accurate, for use to net
it closer. Does anyone know the GPS chip rate and
pattern length, to make some sense of where the 16.368 MHz
comes from?
Robert, VE7CYB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, Brooke Clarke <brooke@p...> wrote:
>
> Hi Robert:
>
> I'm not aware of any GPS receiver that actually locks it's local
> oscillator. What's done is to characterize the clock error in software
> and use that corrected software clock for the position fixes.
>
> There are GPS disciplined oscillators where the 1 Pulse Per Second
> output from a Timing type GPS receiver (like the soon to be replaced
> Motorola M12+T from http://www.synergy-gps.com/), see:
> http://www.pacificsites.com/~brooke/PRS10.shtml
>
> There are home brew versions, see:
> http://www.rt66.com/%7Eshera/
> and units coming out of cell phone sites like the Z3801.
> All the above typically have a 1 PPS and 10 MHz output that in turn can
> be used to derive any frequency you need.
>
> 73,
>

> Brooke Clarke, N6GCE
>
> --
> w/Java http://www.PRC68.com
> w/o Java http://www.pacificsites.com/~brooke/PRC68COM.shtml
> http://www.precisionclock.com
>
>
> >Date: Thu, 22 Dec 2005 17:38:00 -0000
> > From: "ve7cyb" <marinetek@c...>
> >Subject: Application to Industry Canada via RAC
> >
> >It's off and gone ... the application to get on 137 KHz with
> >experimental authorization. Lets see if it's approved!
> >That basis for the experiment is to measure phase drift
> >rate and how it would limit or allow use of slow BPSK.
> >The trick is to sync both the TX and RX sites with "atomic
> >clock like" stability in order to measure the drift.
> >Stability comes from two low cost GPS receivers that
> >PLL lock to the atomic clocks on the satellites ... both
> >in lock-step. The GPS receiver that's PLL locked has a
> >local oscillator of 16.368 MHz. When divided by integer
> >119, it becomes 137.546218 KHz for on-air TX and RX.
> >So here's the question. Is it exactly 16.36800000 MHz
> >or some other funny decimal fraction that they use in
> >the GPS system? It doesn't matter as far as the experiment
> >goes, since both TX and RX sites track exactly anyway,
> >but for calibration of my frequency counter down to
> >the one Hz or sub Hz level before tweeking the master
> >time base.... Just because the VCXO (voltage controlled
> >crystal oscillator) is marked 16.368 doesn't necessarily
> >mean there's not more significant decimal places when locked!
> >Any idea's?
> >Robert, VE7CYB
> >
>

139. Now there's a NARROW filter!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2005-12-30 19:56:27 UTC
From: ve7cyb
Topic: 139 Message: 139

I just completed a construction project to build an
extreemly narrow filter for 137.54 KHz.
Used the 16.368 MHz clock source from a Trimble GPS
module and fed it to a 22V10 GAL (programable logic).
It scaled the frequency by 119 and produced a Gray Code
(almost, to minimize concurrent transistions). These
binary count combinations were wired to a pair of
74HC4051 analog bi-lateral switch arrays. Sixteen
monolythic 1.0 ufd capacitors were attached to the
IC's switch's to ground. The paralled common switch
points were fed from a 6.8K series input resistor.
A coupling capacitor and bias divider was placed
at the input from the "straight through" LF receiver's
last stage. The output is measured right at the
analog switch common point with a scope.

Results: A very, very narrow filter thats less than
a Hertz wide. I couldn't keep the bench generator
on frequency close enough to get an output without
tapping the frequency knob. Never did get it to sit
right on frequency, but just quickly drifted through!
I'll have to fire up the stabilized TX to get
a stable enough frequency source!
How narrow is the filter? Hard to say when you
need a frequency test source that's less that's
much less than one Hz; just to measure the -3db
points.
Any out of band signals are just plain gone! However,
the design is basically a comb filter, so N frequency
multiples would pass if present. But any LF receiver
front end, in practice, would nicely lop that off.

Next Step: Add a high impedance FET op-amp to buffer
the output. Any suggestions for a cheap op-amp IC
that can do the 137.54 KHz? Perhaps add a flash
ADC to log the signal out to a serial PC port?

Conclustion: A switched capacitor filter can be used
to detect a LF signal while rejecting noise, right
down to the width of a highly stabalized source.
Robert, VE7CYB

140. selective level meter

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-01-08 00:01:56 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 140 Message: 140

Anyone using a HP selective level meter.
I can hear WWVB at 60 hrz with the 20 HZ filter on.

_____
Yahoo! DSL ? Something to write home about.
Just $16.99/mo. or less.
dsl.yahoo.com

141. Re: [lowfrequency] selective level meter

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-01-08 00:14:08 UTC
From: Mark McCarthy
Topic: 140 Message: 141

Yes, just checked.

Mark
----- Original Message -----
From: "Dennis Williard" <ka3bvj@...>
To: "lowfrequency" <lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com>; "VLf"
<VLF_Group@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2006 4:01 PM
Subject: [lowfrequency] selective level meter

> Anyone using a HP selective level meter.
> I can hear WWVB at 60 hrz with the 20 HZ filter on.
>
>
>
>
> _____
> Yahoo! DSL - Something to write home about.
> Just $16.99/mo. or less.
> dsl.yahoo.com
>
>
>
> How LOW can your rig GO?
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>
>
>
>

142. Re: [lowfrequency] selective level meter

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-01-08 01:36:34 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 140 Message: 142

```
--- Mark McCarthy <mark.mccarthy@...> wrote:

> Yes, just checked.
>
> Mark
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: "Dennis Williard" <ka3bvj@...>
> To: "lowfrequency" <lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com>;
> "VLf"
> <VLF_Group@yahoogroups.com>
> Sent: Saturday, January 07, 2006 4:01 PM
> Subject: [lowfrequency] selective level meter
>
>
> > Anyone using a HP selective level meter.
> > I can hear WWVB at 60 hrz with the 20 HZ filter
> on.
> >
> >
> >
> >
> > _____________________________________
> > Yahoo! DSL - Something to write home about.
> > Just $16.99/mo. or less.
> > dsl.yahoo.com
> >
> >
> >
> > How LOW can your rig GO?
> > Yahoo! Groups Links
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_____________________________________
Yahoo! DSL ? Something to write home about.
Just $16.99/mo. or less.
dsl.yahoo.com
```

143. Faraday shield on loopstick

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-01-16 05:09:44 UTC
From: Joe Lippencott
Topic: 143 Message: 143

Hi all,

Anyone have any guidelines on Faraday shield dimensions/geometry for a ferrite loopstick antenna. I'm constructing an antenna for my Spectracom 8163 NBS receiver/comparator (receives WWVB @ 60KHz).
I have 400 turns of #34 wire on an Amidon 800u ferrite core (1/2" dia. x 7.5" L.) and resonate it with a double 400pF air variable, parallel connected.

I understand there should be a longitudinal gap in the shield to avoid a "shorted turn" situation, but have no idea how wide this must be or what the spacing of the shield should be from the coil.
Also, should the shield be grounded (connected to one end of the LC)?

Have been searching on the web for weeks on this and can't find anything. Also nothing in the ARRL Handbook or Joe Carr's Practical Antenna Handbook.

Any help sincerely appreciated.

Joe

144. Re: [lowfrequency] Faraday shield on loopstick

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-01-16 23:06:00 UTC
From: Brooke Clarke
Topic: 143 Message: 144

Hi Joe:

My McKay Dymec DA-7 uses an aluminum box that's 3" x 3" x 14". It's in
a "U" shape with wood end plugs and wood top panel.
The shield should be at least 3 skin depths at the lowest operating
frequency.
The shield is grounded. You may have either a single ended or balanced
coil output.

I used the AMRAD active LF whip antenna and modified it to work down to
60 kHz, see:
http://www.pacificsites.com/~brooke/LF-Ant.shtml

If you Google WWVB (maybe with antenna) you will find all kinds of them.

73,

Brooke Clarke, N6GCE

--
w/Java http://www.PRC68.com
w/o Java http://www.pacificsites.com/~brooke/PRC68COM.shtml
http://www.precisionclock.com

>Date: Mon, 16 Jan 2006 05:09:44 -0000
> From: "Joe Lippencott" <lippen@...>
>Subject: Faraday shield on loopstick
>
>Hi all,
>
>Anyone have any guidelines on Faraday shield dimensions/geometry for a
>ferrite loopstick antenna. I'm constructing an antenna for my
>Spectracom 8163 NBS receiver/comparator (receives WWVB @ 60KHz).
>I have 400 turns of #34 wire on an Amidon 800u ferrite core (1/2" dia.
>x 7.5" L.) and resonate it with a double 400pF air variable, parallel
>connected.
>
>I understand there should be a longitudinal gap in the shield to avoid
>a "shorted turn" situation, but have no idea how wide this must be or
>what the spacing of the shield should be from the coil.
>Also, should the shield be grounded (connected to one end of the LC)?
>
>Have been searching on the web for weeks on this and can't find
>anything. Also nothing in the ARRL Handbook or Joe Carr's Practical
>Antenna Handbook.
>
>Any help sincerely appreciated.

>
>Joe
>
>

145. band opening

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-01-28 11:39:23 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 145 Message: 145

VLF band opening 6:00 am eastern USA qth Herndon,Pa.
hearing XZ 205 Wawa Canada.. Seems to be open to the
North / West also hearing TVX 521 Green Castl,In

_____
Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
http://mail.yahoo.com

146. band opening

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-01-29 12:26:42 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 145 Message: 146

Band was open again this morning..
I heard total of 56 stations between 517 down to 206
pick up 2 new ones also heard strange cw sounded like
a problem with transmitter on 231
and strange cw note on 333

_____
Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
http://mail.yahoo.com

147. Test Transmission from SAQ

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-02-16 21:53:06 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 147 Message: 147

From the LWCA message board:

>>I just received word that VLF Radiostation Grimeton will run 2
special rare wintertime CW transmissions of SAQ 17.2KHz on 0900
& 1300 UTC Sunday, February 19, 2006. Each transmission will be
about a half-hour in length. Remember to convert UTC correctly to
your own time so you don't miss the transmission. SAQ is the
world's only remaining operational Alexanderson Alternator
Transmitter and this will be a great opportunity to try your luck
receiving them in optimum wintertime conditions for VLF!
73 Todd WD4NGG <<

http://lwca.org/mb/msg/4772.htm

The station, located in Grimeton, Sweden, is now a museum and perhaps
once a year they fire up the old alternator for a test broadcast.
Here is a link to the station; click on the British flag for an
English version of the various texts.

The towers on the front page of this group are of the Grimeton site's
antenna system.

http://www.alexander.n.se/

For many years the station carried commercial transatlantic traffic
before being decommissioned to museum status. The station dates back
to the 1920s.

There will be two transmissions (assuming they can get it running)
of about a half hour each at 0900 and 1300 UTC on 19 FEB 2006, on
a frequency of 17.2 KHz. I'm uncertain of the station's power, but
suffice it to say that it's HUGE.

For those readers unfamiliar with the Alexanderson alternator; it is
essentially an AC generator hooked to an antenna. It's output is at
the carrier frequency, and it is tuned by adjusting the generator's
shaft speed. CW transmission is accomplished by keying the
alternator's field winding.

On past test transmissions the signal has been successfully copied
in North America by many LF/VLF hobbyists.

There is QSL information on the Grimeton website.

If you decide to go for it, GOOD LUCK!

73's,

Tom, W9LBB

148. SAQ 0900 Broadcast: Did anyone get lucky?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-02-19 09:56:43 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 148 Message: 148

Howdy!

I managed to get in from work in time for the 0900 SAQ broadcast. The results were mixed; I believe I could hear the station, but too weak to copy the code. Not certain tho.

Propagation was VERY good this morning; locally, it was clear weather, VERY cold (about 3 degrees F) and the band was QUIET.

No real luck on SAQ because in this location (southern Wisconsin) the propagation appears to have been to the west; I got a THUNDEROUS signal
out of NWC (North Cape, Australia) on 19.8 KHz, likewise from NPM on 21.4 KHz (Lualualei, Hawaii). We even got a weak signal on 18.6 KHz (a US Navy TACAMO aircraft frequency; location unknown).

The receiver was a Racal RA-6778C hooked to a short long wire (the most
quiet antenna at the time).

73's,

Mr. T., W9LBB

149. Re: SAQ 0900 Broadcast: Did anyone get lucky?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-02-19 20:45:15 UTC
From: caladonia5560
Topic: 148 Message: 149

No luck on SAQ here in Las Vegas. I didn't really expect to hear the 17.2 KHZ broadcast at my location, but it was fun trying anyway.

Using a CEI-357 (Watkins Johnson) VLF receiver with vertical antenna and ARGO software, nothing was heard at 0900. The other VLF stations you mentioned were easily observed. Also what appears to be a transmission from the Russian Alpha navigation system was observed on 14.9 KHZ around 0800 and before.

Les

150. Re: SAQ

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-02-19 20:53:11 UTC
From: KevinR8701@aol.com
Topic: 150 Message: 150

Here in Albuquerque, I tried to pull it in.
I could tell there was something there, but no positive ID.
Conditions were good last night and early morning.
Managed to log 5 new NDB's.
2 Canadian and three US.
Have'nt had that since I first started NDB DXing.
Just when you think you've logged all you can hear......SUPRIZE!

Regards,
K.R.

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

151. Any good VLF receivers out there ???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-03-13 13:47:42 UTC
From: vlfexperimenter
Topic: 151 Message: 151

Thought to ask our 109 members if there are any good VLF-LF receivers out there covering the 10 to 500 kHz. range ??? Tubes, solid-state, surplus units or new stuff. Your thoughts and comments are most appreciated. Questions from a VLF experimenter.

152. Re: [lowfrequency] Any good VLF receivers out there ???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-03-13 17:18:32 UTC
From: Zack Widup
Topic: 151 Message: 152

I've been working on one but I don't have the bugs out of it yet. Hopefully soon ...

73, Zack W9SZ

On 3/13/06, vlfexperimenter <vlfexperimenter@...> wrote:
>
> Thought to ask our 109 members if there are any good VLF-LF receivers
> out there covering the 10 to 500 kHz. range ??? Tubes, solid-state,
> surplus units or new stuff. Your thoughts and comments are most
> appreciated. Questions from a VLF experimenter.
>
>

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

153. Re: [lowfrequency] Any good VLF receivers out there ???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-03-13 17:28:36 UTC
From: Rasputin Novgorod
Topic: 151 Message: 153

--- vlfexperimenter <vlfexperimenter@...> wrote:

> Thought to ask our 109 members if there are any
> good VLF-LF receivers out there covering the 10 to 500 kHz.

I use a H-P 3586c Selective Level Meter as a receiver
(50 hz to 50 mhz). I have a 500 Khz low pass filter on
the antenna. I'm building a preselector. Since the
audio is lousy, I take the IF (15.650 khz) out of the
SLM and feed it into the antenna of my Harris RF-590
receiver. This works well almost down to DC.

You see HP-3586c's on ebay for ~$300; original cost $17,000.

/b

_____
Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
http://mail.yahoo.com

154. Re: Any good VLF receivers out there ???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-03-13 19:45:48 UTC
From: caladonia5560
Topic: 151 Message: 154

My favorite VLF receiver is the CEI 357, a late 1960's era solid state receiver with nixie tube frequency readout that covers 1 to 600 kHz. CEI (which was later acquired by Watkins Johnson) built several other excellent VLF receivers. The CEI 357 has 150 hz, 1 khz, 3 khz, and 6 khz crystal filters and a digital AFC which can hold the receiver tuning within +/- 10 hz, plus numerous other excellent features.

For the real boatanchor enthusiast, the National RBL-5 is a fine radio. It is a TRF receiver designed for CW reception, built for the Navy during WW2 (heavy!), that covers 14 to 650 kHz in 6 bands. Quite sensitive and an amazing performer for a 65+ year old design. If you find one, it is likely to require considerable work to get operating properly (replacement of capacitors that are sealed in tar filled cans for example).

Les Layton
Las Vegas, NV

155. Re: [lowfrequency] Digest Number 90

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-03-13 21:40:43 UTC
From: Brooke Clarke
Topic: 155 Message: 155

Hi VLF:

Sure, but it really depends on what you're trying to do.

A decent active whip antenna, or a resonated long wire are needed with any receiver to capture the signal. I like the DA-100 or AMRAD whip with mods to lower the power supply noise, see:
http://www.pacificsites.com/~brooke/LF-Ant.shtml

The AMRAD web pages and others give high marks to the Cubic 3030 receiver. It has an excellent power supply in terms of not contributing noise. You can avoid power supply/A.C. line noise by using a battery supply.

In the receiver the effective IF bandwidth is very important, narrower is better for pulling signals out of the noise.

So for me DSP based approaches are the best. The HP 4395A in spectrum analyzer mode is fantastic (1 Hz RBW), see:
http://www.pacificsites.com/~brooke/4395A.shtml#SA

A more cost effective way to get very narrow band DSP is to use one of the PC sound card spectrum plotting software packages.

Have Fun,

Brooke Clarke, N6GCE
--
w/Java http://www.PRC68.com
w/o Java http://www.pacificsites.com/~brooke/PRC68COM.shtml
http://www.precisionclock.com

>Date: Mon, 13 Mar 2006 13:47:42 -0000
> From: "vlfexperimenter" <vlfexperimenter@...>
>Subject: Any good VLF receivers out there ???
>
>Thought to ask our 109 members if there are any good VLF-LF receivers
>out there covering the 10 to 500 kHz. range ??? Tubes, solid-state,
>surplus units or new stuff. Your thoughts and comments are most
>appreciated. Questions from a VLF experimenter.
>

156. Re: Good VLF-LF receivers

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-03-13 22:33:39 UTC
From: KevinR8701@aol.com
Topic: 156 Message: 156

The JRC-NRD 525 goes down to 70Khz.
At 180 Khz-400 KHZ, does a great job on NDB's and other dig. modes.
Not much intermod, and this rig would'nt anchor my boat.
RGDS,
K.R.

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

157. RE: [lowfrequency] Any good VLF receivers out there ???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-03-13 23:00:51 UTC
From: Stumm, John C
Topic: 151 Message: 157

I have a Rycom frequency selective level meter. Cushman in another, as well as H-P. Then there's various VLF down converters for use with SW receivers.
i.e. Jackson Harbor, Palomar, and North Country Radio? (kit maybe)

Check out this site: http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/ws1_21.html, if you haven't already...

John

>Subject: [lowfrequency] Any good VLF receivers out there ???

>Thought to ask our 109 members if there are any good VLF-LF receivers
>out there covering the 10 to 500 kHz. range ??? Tubes, solid-state,
>surplus units or new stuff. Your thoughts and comments are most
>appreciated. Questions from a VLF experimenter.

How LOW can your rig GO?
Yahoo! Groups Links

158. RBL Re: [lowfrequency] Re: Any good VLF receivers out there ???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-03-13 23:36:59 UTC
From: RJ Mattson
Topic: 158 Message: 158

I have the RBL-3 TRF VLF receiver and find it to have many advantages over converters and superhets.
It did require extensive replacement of both decoupling and LC network capacitors.
Well worth the effort. The receiver has no mixer birdies or BC feedthrough with the two tuned RF stages.
Copies SAQ with no problem on 17.2 kHz.
bob...w2ami

For the real boatanchor enthusiast, the National RBL-5 is a fine radio. It is a TRF receiver designed for CW reception, built for the Navy during WW2 (heavy!), that covers 14 to 650 kHz in 6 bands. Quite sensitive and an amazing performer for a 65+ year old design. If you find one, it is likely to require considerable work to get operating properly (replacement of capacitors that are sealed in tar filled cans for example).

Les Layton
Las Vegas, NV

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

159. VLF Superhet Receivers

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-03-14 13:41:22 UTC
From: vlfexperimenter
Topic: 159 Message: 159

Do any of our members have vacuum tube superhetrodyne VLF receivers ???
Besides power considerations (in the power supply)and immunity to
static-lightnig stikes what are the pro & cons of solid state vs.
the older tube based technology when it comes to operating in the 10
to 500 kHz. range. Are vacuum tube receivers better? any thoughts and
comments from our members are most welcome.

160. Re: [lowfrequency] Digest Number 91

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-03-15 01:22:58 UTC
From: Brooke Clarke
Topic: 160 Message: 160

Hi VLF:

The major problem with tube receivers is that they use analog IF filtering and so the IF bandwidth is very wide when compared to a DSP based IF fiter.

Someone else has mentioned using a converter and I would second that as an option, especially if the converter is powered by a battery, like the Palomar unit.

<antenna> -- <converter> -- <shortwave receiver> -- <PC sound card & spectrum software>
or
<antenna> -- (opt)<converter> -- <DSP IF type receiver> --(opt)
<PC sound card & spectrum software>

73,

Brooke Clarke, N6GCE
w/Java http://www.PRC68.com
w/o Java http://www.pacificsites.com/~brooke/PRC68COM.shtml
http://www.precisionclock.com

Date: Tue, 14 Mar 2006 13:41:22 -0000
From: "vlfexperimenter" <vlfexperimenter@...>
Subject: VLF Superhet Receivers

Do any of our members have vacuum tube superhetrodyne VLF receivers ???
Besides power considerations (in the power supply)and immunity to
static-lightnig stikes what are the pro & cons of solid state vs.
the older tube based technology when it comes to operating in the 10
to 500 kHz. range. Are vacuum tube receivers better? any thoughts and
comments from our members are most welcome.

161. CEI 357 VLF Receiver Commentary

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-04 19:09:19 UTC
From: vlfexperimenter
Topic: 161 Message: 161

The 357 was the latest in the line of CEI VLF receivers (August 1966), which started with the type 351. Tuning from 1 kHz. to 600 kHz. in a single band was quite inovative for its time. Four crystal filter networks provided bandwidths of 150 Hz. 1-3 and 6 kHz. some variations could supprt either ceramic or mechanical filter elements. The local L/C tuning oscillator was free to tune, without any bandswitching; while its frequency was read with a real frequency counter [RTL logic] (offset by the IF frequency) to display actual Kilo Hertz, with an added feature of reading down to 10 Hz. This display could then be used to lock-in the adjusted frequency via an AFC circuit. Another interesting feature was the tunnel diode assisted noise canceller circuit. Designed to receive either CW-AM or SSB via selectable or variable BFO. Antenna input configuation was ither 50 Ohm or 1 kOhm, thus allowing one to use a standard longwire antenna, making the receiver more usable for VLF DXing. Later on the Sylvania corporation reconfigured this set in to a much smaller version under the nominclature R-1449 WLR-6, having all of the same features but half the size. CEI later evolved as WATKINS JOHNSON, as did this vlf receiver under the new W-J number of 340A, now with a 5 digit LED display.
Do we have any other 357 monitors out there ???

Lets hear from our members what type of VLF receivers you have.
Your comments are most welcome !!!

VLF EXPERIMENTER

162. Hi SPECTREMAN51

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-04 19:25:13 UTC
From: vlfexperimenter
Topic: 162 Message: 162

Hi Chris !!! While we are on the subject of VLF receivers, I was wondering if you could give us a more detailed description of your COLLINS solidstate receiver; such as model or type number front panel layout and all that good stuff. The last Collins VLF set that I remeber was an all tube type R-398. Any chance of posting a picture of it on the WEB it shure would add to the history of our hobby. By the way did you get a manual with it ???
Thanks for the reply Cris...

VLF EXPERIMENTER

163. Re: Collins VLF receiver

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-04 19:34:26 UTC
From: vlfexperimenter
Topic: 73 Message: 163

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "spectreman51"
<spectreman51@...> wrote:
>
>
>
> Hello all.
>
> I now have my Collins VLF receiver & have started listening
> between 10 & 60 kHz.
>
> Have made up a loop antenna & the receiver works very well.
> Just a rough model antenna for now using a small plastic bucket for
> the former & about 100 turns of wire.
> I am recieving a strong MSK signal on 19.8 kHz from North West Cape
> which is the closest VLF site to me. Also picking up GQD in the UK
> well on 19.6 kHz.
>
> The IF filters in the Rx are very good. The 200Hz position really
> cuts out most of the noise. The noise reduction circuit is
excellent
> too.
>
> Will see what else I can find.....
>
> Cheers, Chris.
> Sydney, Australia.
>

Hi Chris: for realtime VLF activity in Australia & NZ. and worldwide
you might want to check out the following website:
http://flash.ess.washington.edu/newwebpage.html

VLF EXPERIMENTER

164. VLF stations in Australia

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-04 19:50:58 UTC
From: vlfexperimenter
Topic: 164 Message: 164

Australia has two VLF stations:
NWC at 19.8 kHz. and
VL3DEF operating on 18.6 kHz.
both can be seen on the WWLL website.

VLF EXPERIMENTER

165. Re: VLF stations in Australia

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-04 19:56:05 UTC
From: vlfexperimenter
Topic: 164 Message: 165

```
--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "vlfexperimenter"
<vlfexperimenter@...> wrote:
>
> Australia has two VLF stations:
> NWC at 19.8 kHz. and
> VL3DEF operating on 18.6 kHz.
> both can be seen on the WWLL website.
>
> VLF EXPERIMENTER
>

QICK CHECK ON THE WWLL NETWORK SHOWS THAT NWC IS ACTIVE, WHILE VL3DEF
IS DOWN FOR MAINT.
```

166. Re: [lowfrequency] CEI 357 VLF Receiver Commentary

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-04 23:10:53 UTC
From: John Kolb
Topic: 161 Message: 166

I've got some info on the R-1449/WLR6(V) on my site
http://jlkolb.cts.com/site/1449.htm

I'm wondering if Sylvania was the company that reconfigured the
357 design or if the task was subcontracted to CEI. Almost all
the modules in the set are labeled CEI.

John

At 12:09 PM 4/4/2006, you wrote:
>The 357 was the latest in the line of CEI VLF receivers (August
>1966), which started with the type 351. Tuning from 1 kHz. to 600
>kHz. in a single band was quite inovative for its time. Four crystal
>filter networks provided bandwidths of 150 Hz. 1-3 and 6 kHz. some
>variations could supprt either ceramic or mechanical filter elements.
>The local L/C tuning oscillator was free to tune, without any
>bandswitching; while its frequency was read with a real frequency
>counter [RTL logic] (offset by the IF frequency) to display actual
>Kilo Hertz, with an added feature of reading down to 10 Hz. This
>display could then be used to lock-in the adjusted frequency via an
>AFC circuit. Another interesting feature was the tunnel diode
>assisted noise canceller circuit. Designed to receive either CW-AM or
>SSB via selectable or variable BFO. Antenna input configuation was
>ither 50 Ohm or 1 kOhm, thus allowing one to use a standard longwire
>antenna, making the receiver more usable for VLF DXing. Later on the
>Sylvania corporation reconfigured this set in to a much smaller
>version under the nominclature R-1449 WLR-6, having all of the same
>features but half the size. CEI later evolved as WATKINS JOHNSON, as
>did this vlf receiver under the new W-J number of 340A, now with a 5
>digit LED display.
>Do we have any other 357 monitors out there ???
>
>Lets hear from our members what type of VLF receivers you have.
>Your comments are most welcome !!!
>
>VLF EXPERIMENTER
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>How LOW can your rig GO?
>Yahoo! Groups Links

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>--
>Internal Virus Database is out-of-date.
>Checked by AVG Anti-Virus.
>Version: 7.0.344 / Virus Database: 267.15.3/254 - Release Date: 2/8/2006

167. Message for John Kolb

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-05 12:34:21 UTC
From: vlfexperimenter
Topic: 167 Message: 167

Sylvania was the prime contractor responsible in converting all CEI and W-J units. The 357 had a demension of 3.5" high,19" deep,with a standard 19" wide front panel. Sylvania took that and reconfigured it to 6" wide, to 8.5" high, and 16" deep; quite an accomplishment for its time. Back in 1981 the 357 sold for $12,755.00; the MIL. conversion must have been up to 20 K. Unfortunately the current value of the 357 is less than $100.00 mostly due to the fact that the receivers NIXIE digital display tubes have reached their life end, and that most of the RTC IC. devices have been obsolete for more that 20 years; other then that they make nice conversation pieces. The newer W-J versions had all redesigned digital counters, components that can be replaced with a minimum of problems, etc...

VLF EXPERIMENTER

168. VARIANT to W-J 357

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-05 12:40:33 UTC
From: vlfexperimenter
Topic: 168 Message: 168

Another variation to the W-J 357 VLF receiver was made by Honeywell under the model number of 6869. Do any of our members have this set, or information about it ???

VLF EXPERIMENTER

169. Re: [lowfrequency] Re: Collins VLF receiver

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-05 15:55:31 UTC
From: gewingerd@netzero.com
Topic: 73 Message: 169

Good to hear from Australia.
Trying to get email to a fellow in Australia about his RA6790/GM that needs displays, the mail keeps getting returned. Can you try at your end, his email is sparti3mystras@... and he has used the RA6790/GM Yahoo site before.
Thanks,
Gary Wingerd
gewingerd@netzero.com

170. Re: CEI 357 VLF Receiver Commentary

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-05 18:10:13 UTC
From: caladonia5560
Topic: 161 Message: 170

I have owned my CEI-357 for 10+ years. The nixie tubes are still working fine, although I have obtained a couple of spares just in case they are needed. I normally use an additional 500khz low pass filter in line with the antenna to eliminate intermodulation products from nearby local broadcast stations. These receivers don't show up often, but the last two I have seen on ebay went for over $400 here in the USA.

Les Layton
Las Vegas, NV

171. RBL Re: [lowfrequency] Re: Any good VLF receivers out there ???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-06 12:35:22 UTC
From: vlfexperimenter
Topic: 158 Message: 171

```
--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "RJ Mattson" <rjmattson@...>
wrote:
>
> I have the RBL-3 TRF VLF receiver and find it to have many
advantages over converters and superhets.
> It did require extensive replacement of both decoupling and LC
network capacitors.
> Well worth the effort. The receiver has no mixer birdies or BC
feedthrough with the two tuned RF stages.
> Copies SAQ with no problem on 17.2 kHz.
> bob...w2ami
> ------------------------------------------------------------
> For the real boatanchor enthusiast, the National RBL-5 is a fine
> radio. It is a TRF receiver designed for CW reception, built for the
> Navy during WW2 (heavy!), that covers 14 to 650 kHz in 6 bands.
Quite
> sensitive and an amazing performer for a 65+ year old design. If you
> find one, it is likely to require considerable work to get operating
> properly (replacement of capacitors that are sealed in tar filled
cans
> for example).
>
> Les Layton
> Las Vegas, NV
>
>
> [Non-text portions of this message have been removed]
>

Hi Les and Bob:

The NATIONAL RADIO VLF RECEIVERS RBL 2-3 AND 5 SERIES OF RECEIVERS
STARTED OUT BACK IN 1941 AND HAD BEEN CONSIDERED STATE OF THE ART.
EVEN TODAY AS YOU BOTH HAD MENTIONED THESE REGENERATIVE RECEIVERS ARE
QUITE SENSITIVE AND CAN APPROACH THE SUB-MICROVOLT LEVEL WITHOUT ANY
PROBLEM. ALSO THEY LEND THEMSELVES TO SOLIDSTATE FET CONVERSION WHEN
THOSE 6SK7 TUBES HAVE REACHED THEIR END OF LIFE CYCLE.
LOOKING BACK AT OLDER ISSUES OF QST; AND THE APRIL 1948 ISSUE OF CQ
MAGAZINE THE RBL-2 SOLD IN THE RANGE OF 60 TO 80 BUCKS AS WAR SURPLUS
AND BRAND NEW.

VLF EXPERIMENTER
```

172. STODDARD VLF RADIO COLLECTORS

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-06 12:37:30 UTC
From: vlfexperimenter
Topic: 172 Message: 172

Do we have any Stoddard Aircraft Radio RFI-EMI VLF. Radio collectors
out there ???
VLF EXPERIMENTER

173. Re: [lowfrequency] STODDARD VLF RADIO COLLECTORS

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-06 13:11:11 UTC
From: gandalfg8@aol.com
Topic: 172 Message: 173

In a message dated 06/04/2006 13:38:06 GMT Daylight Time,
vlfexperimenter@... writes:

Do we have any Stoddard Aircraft Radio RFI-EMI VLF. Radio collectors
out there ???
VLF EXPERIMENTER

I've got some of the later ones, an NM7, 20Hz to 50KHz, and an NM17-27,
10KHz to 32MHz.
I've also got an NM37/57, 30 to 1000 MHz, but guess that isn't really LF:-)

The NM7 is the last one I found, about a year ago, and looks ok but had to
go straight into storage so I've not even had power on it. It'll be something
to look forward to when I finally move house and get settled again.
I've got spec info but no manuals for the two lower frequency ones so any
info as to where they might be found would be appreciated.

With reference to earlier coments on the WJ 357 that sounds very similar in
principle to the DMS105 series of selective demodulators.
They also have the digital AFC linked to the counter but have two ranges, 1
to 600 KHz, and 540 KHz to 1600 KHz. It sounds like they have more crystal
filters too.

I've used a DMS105A as an LF receiver for a couple of years and was very
impressed from the start. I recently acquired a DMS105R, the more shielded EMI
proof version, but that has a fault on the counter to AFC interface so it's not
locking.
Another project waiting to be dug out of the pile in storage:-)

I'm not sure how long I will be keeping the Stoddart kit, it's a bit big and
I will probably have less room in the future, but I would be really sad if I
had to part with the DMS105A.

regards

Nigel
G8PZR

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

174. Re: STODDARD VLF RADIO COLLECTORS

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-06 18:27:41 UTC
From: vlfexperimenter
Topic: 172 Message: 174

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, gandalfg8@... wrote:
>
>
> In a message dated 06/04/2006 13:38:06 GMT Daylight Time,
> vlfexperimenter@... writes:
>
> Do we have any Stoddard Aircraft Radio RFI-EMI VLF. Radio
collectors
> out there ???
> VLF EXPERIMENTER
>
>
>
> I've got some of the later ones, an NM7, 20Hz to 50KHz, and an
NM17-27,
> 10KHz to 32MHz.
> I've also got an NM37/57, 30 to 1000 MHz, but guess that isn't
really LF:-)
>
> The NM7 is the last one I found, about a year ago, and looks ok
but had to
> go straight into storage so I've not even had power on it. It'll
be something
> to look forward to when I finally move house and get settled again.
> I've got spec info but no manuals for the two lower frequency ones
so any
> info as to where they might be found would be appreciated.
>
> With reference to earlier coments on the WJ 357 that sounds very
similar in
> principle to the DMS105 series of selective demodulators.
> They also have the digital AFC linked to the counter but have two
ranges, 1
> to 600 KHz, and 540 KHz to 1600 KHz. It sounds like they have more
crystal
> filters too.
>
> I've used a DMS105A as an LF receiver for a couple of years and was
very
> impressed from the start. I recently acquired a DMS105R, the more
shielded EMI
> proof version, but that has a fault on the counter to AFC interface
so it's not
> locking.
> Another project waiting to be dug out of the pile in storage:-)

>
> I'm not sure how long I will be keeping the Stoddart kit, it's a
bit big and
> I will probably have less room in the future, but I would be really
sad if I
> had to part with the DMS105A.
>
> regards
>
> Nigel
> G8PZR
>
>
>
>
>
>
> [Non-text portions of this message have been removed]
>

YES NIGEL, SOME OF THE BEST ELF-VLF-LF RECEIVERS ARE ACTUALLY RFI-
EMI RECEIVERS, STODDARD AIRCRAFT RADIO COMPANY WAS ONE MANUFACTURER
THAT MANUFACTURED A VERY LARGE AN SOPHISTICATED LINE OF THESE DEVICES.
MEMBERS MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE LINK.
www.antiquewireless.org/links05.htm
(hopeI got this right)
Once your on that AWA site look page down to STODDARD AIRCRAFT RADIO

VLF EXPERIMENTER

175. Re: [lowfrequency] Re: STODDARD VLF RADIO COLLECTORS

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-06 18:50:21 UTC
From: gandalfg8@aol.com
Topic: 172 Message: 175

Yup, I have that link stored from my earlier searches and it makes
interesting reading.

Also very useful at LF are selective level meters.
Often they will tune from a few hundred Hz or less but usually lack any form
of AGC which limits them as general coverage receivers.
However, that's often not so much of an issue at LF or VLF.
One of my favourites is the HP3586, but we're talking large and heavy lumps
again with that one.

Only today I gave in to temptation and bought a Cushman CE-70, another large
and heavy SLM.
The price was good but it's reported to have a burning smell when switched
on.....
I just gotta be a glutton for punishment:-)

regards

Nigel
G8PZR

In a message dated 06/04/2006 19:33:16 GMT Daylight Time,
vlfexperimenter@... writes:

YES NIGEL, SOME OF THE BEST ELF-VLF-LF RECEIVERS ARE ACTUALLY RFI-
EMI RECEIVERS, STODDARD AIRCRAFT RADIO COMPANY WAS ONE MANUFACTURER
THAT MANUFACTURED A VERY LARGE AN SOPHISTICATED LINE OF THESE DEVICES.
MEMBERS MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE LINK.
www.antiquewireless.org/links05.htm
(hopeI got this right)
Once your on that AWA site look page down to STODDARD AIRCRAFT RADIO

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

176. Re: RBL Re: [lowfrequency] Re: Any good VLF receivers out there ???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-07 09:20:24 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 158 Message: 176

I am using a kenwoord R-1000 on VLF works great..
goes only down to 100 khz...I do have regen from 1949
but have to get power to it yet which I do have the
supply

--- vlfexperimenter <vlfexperimenter@...> wrote:

> --- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "RJ Mattson"
> <rjmattson@...>
> wrote:
> >
> > I have the RBL-3 TRF VLF receiver and find it to
> have many
> advantages over converters and superhets.
> > It did require extensive replacement of both
> decoupling and LC
> network capacitors.
> > Well worth the effort. The receiver has no mixer
> birdies or BC
> feedthrough with the two tuned RF stages.
> > Copies SAQ with no problem on 17.2 kHz.
> > bob...w2ami
> >
>

> > For the real boatanchor enthusiast, the National
> RBL-5 is a fine
> > radio. It is a TRF receiver designed for CW
> reception, built for the
> > Navy during WW2 (heavy!), that covers 14 to 650
> kHz in 6 bands.
> Quite
> > sensitive and an amazing performer for a 65+ year
> old design. If you
> > find one, it is likely to require considerable
> work to get operating
> > properly (replacement of capacitors that are
> sealed in tar filled
> cans
> > for example).
> >
> > Les Layton
> > Las Vegas, NV
> >
> >

> > [Non-text portions of this message have been
> removed]
> >
>
>
>
> Hi Les and Bob:
>
> The NATIONAL RADIO VLF RECEIVERS RBL 2-3 AND 5
> SERIES OF RECEIVERS
> STARTED OUT BACK IN 1941 AND HAD BEEN CONSIDERED
> STATE OF THE ART.
> EVEN TODAY AS YOU BOTH HAD MENTIONED THESE
> REGENERATIVE RECEIVERS ARE
> QUITE SENSITIVE AND CAN APPROACH THE SUB-MICROVOLT
> LEVEL WITHOUT ANY
> PROBLEM. ALSO THEY LEND THEMSELVES TO SOLIDSTATE FET
> CONVERSION WHEN
> THOSE 6SK7 TUBES HAVE REACHED THEIR END OF LIFE
> CYCLE.
> LOOKING BACK AT OLDER ISSUES OF QST; AND THE APRIL
> 1948 ISSUE OF CQ
> MAGAZINE THE RBL-2 SOLD IN THE RANGE OF 60 TO 80
> BUCKS AS WAR SURPLUS
> AND BRAND NEW.
>
> VLF EXPERIMENTER
>
>
>
>
>

Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
http://mail.yahoo.com

177. Re: Any good VLF receivers out there ???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-07 12:23:19 UTC
From: vlfexperimenter
Topic: 151 Message: 177

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Stumm, John C" <jcstumm@...>
wrote:
>
> I have a Rycom frequency selective level meter. Cushman in another,
as
> well as H-P. Then there's various VLF down converters for use with
SW
> receivers.
> i.e. Jackson Harbor, Palomar, and North Country Radio? (kit maybe)
>
> Check out this site: http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/ws1_21.html, if
you
> haven't already...
>
> John
>
> >Subject: [lowfrequency] Any good VLF receivers out there ???
>
> >Thought to ask our 109 members if there are any good VLF-LF
receivers
> >out there covering the 10 to 500 kHz. range ??? Tubes, solid-
state,
> >surplus units or new stuff. Your thoughts and comments are most
> >appreciated. Questions from a VLF experimenter.
>
>
>
>
>
> How LOW can your rig GO?
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>

HI JOHN:

WHATS THE MODEL OF YOUR RYCOM SET OUT THERE, IS IT A TUBE OR SOLID
STATE TYPE; DIGITAL OR ANALOG DIAL FREQUENCY READOUT ?

VLF EXPERIMENTER

178. RE: [lowfrequency] Re: Any good VLF receivers out there ???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-07 14:15:28 UTC
From: Stumm, John C
Topic: 151 Message: 178

>HI JOHN:

>WHATS THE MODEL OF YOUR RYCOM SET OUT THERE, IS IT A TUBE OR SOLID
>STATE TYPE; DIGITAL OR ANALOG DIAL FREQUENCY READOUT ?

>VLF EXPERIMENTER

Hi VLF,
The model is the 6041, digital readout version of the 6040.
I use it, along with Signalcrafters models 60, 70 and 90 for setting up
and testing power line carrier equipment. - a nice job for VLF
enthusiasts,
We only have two power lines that employ it though, so there's not much
call for its use - at least at work :)

Regards,
John

179. Re: Any good VLF receivers out there ???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-07 16:31:46 UTC
From: vlfexperimenter
Topic: 151 Message: 179

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Stumm, John C" <jcstumm@...>
wrote:
>
>
>
>
> >HI JOHN:
>
> >WHATS THE MODEL OF YOUR RYCOM SET OUT THERE, IS IT A TUBE OR SOLID
> >STATE TYPE; DIGITAL OR ANALOG DIAL FREQUENCY READOUT ?
>
> >VLF EXPERIMENTER
>
>
> Hi VLF,
> The model is the 6041, digital readout version of the 6040.
> I use it, along with Signalcrafters models 60, 70 and 90 for
setting up
> and testing power line carrier equipment. - a nice job for VLF
> enthusiasts,
> We only have two power lines that employ it though, so there's not
much
> call for its use - at least at work :)
>
> Regards,
> John
>

YES JOHN, THE RYCOM 6041 IS A REAL NICE SMALL & PORTABLE SET,
OPERATING FROM 300 HZ. TO 3.5 mHz. AND WITH AN INPUT CHOICE OF 50 to
600 OHMS ALLOWS IT TO BE OPERATING WITH A WIDE VARIETY OF ANTENNAS.
UNFORTUNATELEY THE 50 OR 100 HZ FILTERS ARE KINDA NARROW, THUS MAKING
RECEPTION RATHER DIFFICULT WHEN LOOKING AT 100 HZ. WIDE MSK. SIGNALS.
CONSIDERING IT'S INPUT SENSITYVITY OF -99.9 dBm, AND HAVING A TUNABLE
FREQUENCY RESOLUTION OF 10 HZ. MAKES THIS SET A REAL KEEPER. BY THE
WAY BACK IN 1991 THE 6041 SOLD FOR $6595.00

VLF EXPERIMENTER

180. Cushman CE70 Selective Level Meter

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-04-11 19:40:56 UTC
From: Nigel Clarke
Topic: 180 Message: 180

Hi All

I picked this beast up yesterday, literally....ouch it's heavy:-)

It's basically working but will need stripping to clean or replace
switches, most rotary ones at least, and smoke has been reported as
coming from the somewhere around the front panel PCB although no signs
now.
Filter switching is a bit suspect too but I suppose one may be optional.

Does anybody here have any experience of this unit or know where I
could download a manual or buy one at a sensible cost?
The only one I've found so far is a pdf on CD at $60 which seems high.

regards

Nigel
G8PZR

181. Re: VLF Superhet Receivers

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-05-02 00:58:20 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 159 Message: 181

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "vlfexperimenter"
<vlfexperimenter@...> wrote:
>
> Do any of our members have vacuum tube superhetrodyne VLF
receivers ???
> Besides power considerations (in the power supply)and immunity to
> static-lightnig stikes what are the pro & cons of solid state vs.
> the older tube based technology when it comes to operating in the
10
> to 500 kHz. range. Are vacuum tube receivers better? any thoughts
and
> comments from our members are most welcome.
>

Hi!

I have several tube receivers (Magnavox WRR-3/R-1134, Hammarlund SP-
600VLF, and Collins R-389), and experience with a number of others,
mostly WW2 vintage Navy surplus rigs (usually consisting of a couple
of
RF stages, a regenerative detector, and an audio stage or two) of
various types.

I can't really say they're any better than modern solid state gear;
in fact, IMHO in many cases the opposite is usually the case.

The tube gear is much more difficult to find for sale (it took over
20 years to locate my R-389 and SP-600). Tube stuff is usually VERY
heavy; tho it doesn't look it, the WRR-3 weighs in at over 90 pounds,
about the same as an R-389; I used to joke that since the radio was
used on submarines, it was a BIG reason they could crash dive so fast!

In terms of performance... a good tube receiver can do an excellent
job, but I personally prefer the modern solid state rigs; I have
gotten used to digital readout dials, super frequency stability thru
the use of synthesizers, and a lot of versatility re. IF bandwidths,
etc. MOST of the tube rigs have a slight edge over solid state rigs
in terms of front end selectivity (i.e., immunity to intermod and
overload from BCB signals); some of the military rigs don't because
they were designed to work with high impedance antennas (mostly the
rigs that were designed for aircraft), and they use capacitor coupling
to the input coils rather than link coupling. These LF rigs (notably
BC-348 and the "Command Sets") are prone to horrible noise from AC
power line ground loops. In one Command Set I had, I tore apart the
antenna coil and added a link coil for coupling to the antenna rather
than using the capacitor coupling; the improvement in the front end's

performance was dramatic and immediate.

Everything else being equal, my impression is that solid state rigs have a SLIGHT edge on front end noise figure, but not a huge one... not enough to be a "make or break" factor.

Modern receiver have a VERY wide frequency coverage range, and have just about put my older tube radios out of a job; my Racals will give excellent performance down to 10 KHz or lower.

As far as front end damage from static is concerned, a tube radio IS clearly the way to go; it's a bunch more bulletproof. However, by using common sense measures (disconnecting antennas when not in use, good quality transient protection devices [meaning Polyphazer], isolation of the receivers from the AC power line with a good quality isolation transformer), I've not yet had a blown front end device on my solid state pets.

Hope this answers your questions.

Tom, W9LBB

As far as front end damage

182. Re: Any good VLF receivers out there ???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-05-21 01:08:57 UTC
From: Michael Ostrowski
Topic: 151 Message: 182

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Stumm, John C" <jcstumm@...>
wrote:
>
>
>
>
> >HI JOHN:
>
> >WHATS THE MODEL OF YOUR RYCOM SET OUT THERE, IS IT A TUBE OR SOLID
> >STATE TYPE; DIGITAL OR ANALOG DIAL FREQUENCY READOUT ?
>
> >VLF EXPERIMENTER
>
>
> Hi VLF,
> The model is the 6041, digital readout version of the 6040.
> I use it, along with Signalcrafters models 60, 70 and 90 for
setting up
> and testing power line carrier equipment. - a nice job for VLF
> enthusiasts,
> We only have two power lines that employ it though, so there's not
much
> call for its use - at least at work :)
>
> Regards,
> John
>

Just bought an absolutely new Rycom 6041 at the Dayton Hamvention today (still has the protective plastic on the chrome handle mount), $250. The guy had seven more here, and more back at his NJ warehouse. It has a heavy rechargable battery pack inside so shipping it could be costly (it's over 20 lbs), but here's the info from their business card, if you're interested:

Tech-Systems Electroics, Inc.
1750 Brielle Ave, Suite A3-A4
Ocean Township, NJ 07712
800-435-1516 or 732-918-7979
www.Tech-Systems.net

Also says "Bill Cusa, President", but I'm sure that's not who I spoke with, they had quite a few guys working the show.

FYI - I've no business interest with these folks, just happy to find this deal and thought I'd pass along the info.

- Mike, KI8IK
Saline, MI

183. Any other Collins VLF receivers out there ???

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-05-28 17:06:03 UTC
From: vlfexperimenter
Topic: 183 Message: 183

Do any of our members know of any other Collins ELF-VLF solid state or tube based receivers (besides the R-389) ????
vlfexperimenter

184. Wanna see WWVB?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-06-22 04:27:50 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 184 Message: 184

Greetings!

I was fooling around with GOOGLE EARTH this evening, and out of
curiosity I looked for the WWV transmitter site.

The aerial photography picked up WWV beautifully... and I began
searching around to see if I could locate the WWVB antennas.

Found 'em!

For a sketch of what to look for, see page 8 of this PDF document:

http://tf.nist.gov/timefreq/general/pdf/1406.pdf

There are two antenna systems consisting of four 122 meter high
towers supporting a capacity hat and vertical radiator (uplead).
They are cleaerly visible in the GOOGLE imagry.

Coordinates to look at for the antenna system:

-WWVB Transmitter Building =
40 degrees, 40 minutes, 40.59 seconds north
105 degrees, 2 minutes, 48.78 seconds west

-North tuning helix house =
40 degrees, 40 minutes, 50.67 seconds north
105 degrees, 3 minutes, 1.61 seconds west

-South tuning helix house =
40 degrees, 40 minutes, 28.95 seconds north
105 degrees, 2 minutes, 42.34 seconds west

For the WWV HF site, the transmitter building is at:
40 degrees, 40 minutes, 46.96 seconds north
105 degrees, 2 minutes, 32.44 seconds west

The various vertical radiators for 2.5, 5, 10, 15, and 20 MHz are
visible to the northeast, east, and southeast of the building. The
transmission line paths are also clearly visible.

BTW... It appears that the Google people have been updating and
upgrading the GOOGLE EARTH site regularly, with the best possible
imagry. In the last few months they've upgraded a LOT of stuff on
the system, and produced a lot of startling images.

Check out this location (Surprise Bonus!):

18 degrees, 20 minutes, 39.40 seconds north
66 degrees, 45 minutes, 10.53 seconds west

:o)

73's,

Mr. T., W9LBB

185. What is a good VLF receiver ?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-06-26 20:57:28 UTC
From: Adam E.
Topic: 185 Message: 185

Hello,

I just wanted to ask out of curiousity what is a good VLF whistler receiver? I built that BBB-4 along time ago, but it did not pick up too well back in 2000. Maybe I try it again the second time. Anyways what VLF receiver for whistler hunting be in a city area like Virginia Beach, VA ?

Adam E. gccengineering

186. RE: [lowfrequency] What is a good VLF receiver ?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-06-27 01:25:23 UTC
From: Stumm, John C
Topic: 185 Message: 186

Adam,
I bought mine (WR-3), from Conversion Research out of Descanso CA.

http://www.rigpix.com/specialized/conversionresearch_wr3.htm

I also have one from Kiwa. They discontinued them also. Either one might be found second hand though.
The problem may not lie in the rig but in the location in which you are trying to listen in. In the city, the background hum is going to swamp out all but the strongest spherics. One good way to tell how well it might work in the right environment is to try walking while listening. You should be able to the static generated by your footsteps. I must remain pretty much montionless as i listen as the static generated can interfere with reception. Hope this helps.

Regards,
john

>Hello,

>I just wanted to ask out of curiousity what is a good VLF whistler
>receiver? I built that BBB-4 along time ago, but it did not pick
>up too well back in 2000. Maybe I try it again the second time.
>Anyways what VLF receiver for whistler hunting be in a city area like
>Virginia Beach, VA ?

Adam E. gccengineering

How LOW can your rig GO?
Yahoo! Groups Links

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

187. SAQ Reception Report

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-07-06 12:59:25 UTC
From: vlfexperimenter
Topic: 187 Message: 187

Did anyone pick up SAQ ????

vlfexperimenter

188. Re: [lowfrequency] SAQ Reception Report

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-07-06 15:09:39 UTC
From: RJ Mattson
Topic: 187 Message: 188

QSL Reception of SAQ 17.2 kHZ at 1230 UTC 02JUL06
RST 349 QRN.--- Stronger than signals at 0830 UTC
RX RBL-3, 7 valve TRF
ANT 6' loop

Bob Mattson, w2ami
Highland, NY usa
FN31ar

----- Original Message -----
From: vlfexperimenter
To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, July 06, 2006 8:59 AM
Subject: [lowfrequency] SAQ Reception Report

Did anyone pick up SAQ ????

vlfexperimenter

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

189. 600 meters experimental license

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-09-26 18:31:14 UTC
From: caladonia5560
Topic: 189 Message: 189

LF fans have something new to listen for in the 505-510 kHz frequency band. A group radio amateurs at 21 locations have been granted an experimental licence to operate here by the FCC.

For the last several nights I have been hearing at 506kHz, a CW beacon with call sign WD2XSH/20 originating with N6LF at Cottage Grove Oregon around 8 pm PST and later.

From the ARRL Web Site:

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 15, 2006 -- (As of September 13, 2006) The FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology has granted a Part 5 experimental license to the ARRL on behalf of a group of radio amateurs interested in investigating spectrum in the vicinity of 500 kHz. Experimental license WD2XSH was issued September 13. The two-year authorization permits experimentation and research between 505 and 510 kHz (600 meters) using narrowband modes at power levels of up to 20 W effective radiated power (ERP). ARRL Member Fritz Raab, W1FR, of Vermont, will serve as experimental project manager for "The 500 KC Experimental Group for Amateur Radio."

More information can be found at the ARRL website. A list of participants and a map showing their location can also be found at www.500kc.com.

Les Layton
Las Vegas, NV

190. Re: 600 meters experimental license

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-09-29 02:45:08 UTC
From: Bill
Topic: 189 Message: 190

Is the PSK31 signals USB or what?

Bill WA0YPL DM37dt

191. Where Your Moderator's head has been at lately...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-10-03 16:25:21 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 191 Message: 191

Howdy, Troops!

Haven't been doing much of anything LF/VLF, or even radio related recently; that's more of a winter activity.

Instead... the Middle Aged Crazies seem to have caught up with me of late.

As if I needed MORE hobbies... at the age of 57 I've suddenly just gotten hooked on MOTORCYCLES!!! The O. L. has been looking at me like I've gone totally bonker. I bought a bike off of EBAY (she's gotten accustomed to EBAY boxes full of exotic radios coming in, but THIS is a horse of a different color!) for about the price of yet a couple of MORE high end "Premium" recievers.

The kicker in all of this is that up until this weekend I've never been on a bike in my LIFE!!!

One would think that I got all the urges to risk my fool neck out of my system when I was much younger (the Air Force was GOOD for that!), but apparently the urges haven't ALL been extinguished quite yet.

To make it even MORE incomprehensible to her... we're talking a Russian built bike... with a SIDECAR!

http://www.imz-ural.com/

There IS a Method to my Madness tho, and it relates to LF/VLF radio. Consider this...

The biggest problem with LF/VLF DXing is manmade NOISE. Getting WAY out in the boonies, away from power lines and roads now and then is the cure.

Consider a sidecar motorcycle... loaded with a radio, a quarter mile spool of electric fence wire for an antenna, and a couple of deep cycle batteries, plus camping gear, headed cross country a couple of miles deep into a National Forest, into spots where the pickup truck can't get without getting stuck. Toss in a fishing rod or a hunting rifle (we ALL know that LF/VLF is a nighttime thing; what are you going to do during the DAYTIME before the band opens up?).

Sounds like a good weekend to ME. The O. L. doesn't do the outdoors, so for companionship the sidecar also contains an old Irish Setter.

The obvious drawback is that bikes tend to be a SUMMER activity... thus, high noise levels again. With a 3 wheeler tho the riding season is EXTENDED (because of the additional stability a third wheel

provides)... even to the point of SNOW on the ground, assuming you already know the area well enough to not drive into a pothole hidden by snow!

That's the plan, anyway. I finally have the BIKE to go with my biker's BOOTS! :o)

Mr. T.

192. RE: [lowfrequency] Where Your Moderator's head has been at lately...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-10-03 19:06:39 UTC
From: Stumm, John C
Topic: 191 Message: 192

Tom,
I really like the Rusky bikes, especially the Patrol model. I don't imagine they're legal in Calif.... Wish I still had my Moto Guzzi. I had a 3 ft loop mounted on the back if it, (briefly) This was about fifteen years ago when I didn't have to go too far to find silence.

John

-----Original Message-----
From: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com [mailto:lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Tom Adams
Sent: Tuesday, October 03, 2006 9:25 AM
To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [lowfrequency] Where Your Moderator's head has been at lately...

Howdy, Troops!

Haven't been doing much of anything LF/VLF, or even radio related recently; that's more of a winter activity.

Instead... the Middle Aged Crazies seem to have caught up with me of late.

As if I needed MORE hobbies... at the age of 57 I've suddenly just gotten hooked on MOTORCYCLES!!! The O. L. has been looking at me like I've gone totally bonker. I bought a bike off of EBAY (she's gotten accustomed to EBAY boxes full of exotic radios coming in, but THIS is a horse of a different color!) for about the price of yet a couple of MORE high end "Premium" recievers.

The kicker in all of this is that up until this weekend I've never been on a bike in my LIFE!!!

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To make it even MORE incomprehensible to her... we're talking a Russian built bike... with a SIDECAR!

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Consider a sidecar motorcycle... loaded with a radio, a quarter mile spool of electric fence wire for an antenna, and a couple of deep cycle batteries, plus camping gear, headed cross country a couple of miles deep into a National Forest, into spots where the pickup truck can't get without getting stuck. Toss in a fishing rod or a hunting rifle (we ALL know that LF/VLF is a nighttime thing; what are you going to do during the DAYTIME before the band opens up?).

Sounds like a good weekend to ME. The O. L. doesn't do the outdoors, so for companionship the sidecar also contains an old Irish Setter.

The obvious drawback is that bikes tend to be a SUMMER activity... thus, high noise levels again. With a 3 wheeler tho the riding season is EXTENDED (because of the additional stability a third wheel provides)... even to the point of SNOW on the ground, assuming you already know the area well enough to not drive into a pothole hidden by snow!

That's the plan, anyway. I finally have the BIKE to go with my biker's BOOTS! :o)

Mr. T.

How LOW can your rig GO?
Yahoo! Groups Links

193. Re: Where Your Moderator's head has been at lately...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-10-04 16:03:57 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 191 Message: 193

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Stumm, John C" <jcstumm@...>
wrote:
>
> Tom,
> I really like the Rusky bikes, especially the Patrol model. I don't
> imagine they're legal in Calif.... Wish I still had my Moto Guzzi.
I had
> a 3 ft loop mounted on the back if it, (briefly) This was about
fifteen
> years ago when I didn't have to go too far to find silence.
>
> John

Howdy, John!

What we came up with here is a Ural "Bavarian Classic" (2000 model year), low milage (about 400).

To tell the truth, the bike should have been sold thru QST rather than on EBAY... the seller was George, W9EVT, and since he's out on an island in Lake Michigan the deal was brokered by a buddy on the mainland, Steve, W9ZW! All of this was discovered after I got high bid!

When the Russian bike bug bit me I was salivating over the Patrol and the Gear Up... that two wheel drive could get VERY useful for wintertime off road runs into the boonies. However, those that own 'em don't put 'em up for sale very often. But, as I discovered with my first 4WD truck, the extra traction is GREAT for getting you into off road situations that you can't get back OUT of without a tow truck! Such is the case with the inexperienced... <<grin>>

Since I don't want to break my fool neck quite yet, this past weekend we went thru a hack riding course, and got a motorcycle endorsement on the license on Monday. We're still dealing with getting the title and plates sorted out with DOT.

Mr. T., W9LBB

194. From w5cmp

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-10-06 20:20:05 UTC
From: mike
Topic: 194 Message: 194

Hello to the group my name is mike.I live in carrollton texas.I have a 756proIII and wire around my lot to listen on.But i am not hearing much what am i doing wrong.Does the 756 hear in the lf area.I would like some help to understand what i need.73 from mike w5cmp newbee thank you.

195. RE: [lowfrequency] Re: Where Your Moderator's head has been at lately...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-10-07 04:12:33 UTC
From: Stumm, John C
Topic: 191 Message: 195

Hey Mr T,
I hope you haven't wrecked yet!
I was going to tell you about my 50 lb loop i hoisted in my back yard.
It's 50 turns of 12 guage at about 8 ft in diameter. Like wrestling an anaconda getting it up on the pole. Come to think of it, i think it is Anaconda who made the section of multi conductor i used! I came up with a novel pivot point at the pole to so it can rotate easily. I initially intended to use it to monitor sperics but, It is extremely efficient at picking up 60 cycle - even though we're all underground utilities and it sits way in the back of my large back yard. I will try using it for VLF reception this weekend as a tunable loop with a preamp. My receiver only goes down to 150 khz. Dang! I just remembered, i hace access to a Rycom selective level meter at work. Problem is i'm leaving for Texas for a month on Monday. Oh well... I'll try to post some pics before i go.
Later,
john
KG6ZBN

-----Original Message-----
From: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com on behalf of Tom Adams
Sent: Wed 10/4/2006 9:03 AM
To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [lowfrequency] Re: Where Your Moderator's head has been at lately...

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Stumm, John C" <jcstumm@...>
wrote:
>
> Tom,
> I really like the Rusky bikes, especially the Patrol model. I don't
> imagine they're legal in Calif.... Wish I still had my Moto Guzzi.
I had
> a 3 ft loop mounted on the back if it, (briefly) This was about
fifteen
> years ago when I didn't have to go too far to find silence.
>
> John

Howdy, John!

What we came up with here is a Ural "Bavarian Classic" (2000 model year), low milage (about 400).

To tell the truth, the bike should have been sold thru QST rather than on EBAY... the seller was George, W9EVT, and since he's out on an island in Lake Michigan the deal was brokered by a buddy on the mainland, Steve, W9ZW! All of this was discovered after I got high bid!

When the Russian bike bug bit me I was salivating over the Patrol and the Gear Up... that two wheel drive could get VERY useful for wintertime off road runs into the boonies. However, those that own 'em don't put 'em up for sale very often. But, as I discovered with my first 4WD truck, the extra traction is GREAT for getting you into off road situations that you can't get back OUT of without a tow truck! Such is the case with the inexperienced... <<grin>>

Since I don't want to break my fool neck quite yet, this past weekend we went thru a hack riding course, and got a motorcycle endorsement on the license on Monday. We're still dealing with getting the title and plates sorted out with DOT.

Mr. T., W9LBB

How LOW can your rig GO?
Yahoo! Groups Links

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

196. Re: From w5cmp

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-10-07 18:06:34 UTC
From: caladonia5560
Topic: 194 Message: 196

I have read in a report on the DXing.info website that the ICOM 756 PRO III has the LF and MW ranges attenuated. This can be reversed by a minor modification. After this was done the ICOM out performed a Drake R8B in most areas...which is very good indeed.

Les Layton
Las Vegas, NV

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "mike" <w5cmp_1960@...> wrote:
>
> Hello to the group my name is mike.I live in carrollton texas.I have a
> 756proIII and wire around my lot to listen on.But i am not hearing much
> what am i doing wrong.Does the 756 hear in the lf area.I would like
> some help to understand what i need.73 from mike w5cmp newbee thank you.
>

197. Re: [lowfrequency] From w5cmp

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-10-09 13:49:22 UTC
From: Zack Widup
Topic: 194 Message: 197

Hi Mike,

The rig isn't so important as the antenna. What are you using for an antenna?

73, Zack W9SZ

> On 10/6/06, mike <w5cmp_1960@...> wrote: >
> Hello to the group my name is mike.I live in carrollton texas.I have a
> 756proIII and wire around my lot to listen on.But i am not hearing much
> what am i doing wrong.Does the 756 hear in the lf area.I would like
> some help to understand what i need.73 from mike w5cmp newbee thank you.
>

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

198. Re: [lowfrequency] Re: Where Your Moderator's head has been at lately...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-10-09 14:02:31 UTC
From: Zack Widup
Topic: 191 Message: 198

I have just built KI0LE's loop:

http://www.cpinternet.com/~ki0le/pages/loop1.htm

I'm working on a preamp that I can mount on the antenna in a waterproof housing. Now I just have to figure out where to put this thing up!

I hope the winter season is good.

73, Zack W9SZ

On 6 Oct 2006 John KG6ZBN wrote:

Hey Mr T,
I hope you haven't wrecked yet!
I was going to tell you about my 50 lb loop i hoisted in my back yard. It's 50 turns of 12 guage at about 8 ft in diameter. Like wrestling an anaconda getting it up on the pole. Come to think of it, i think it is Anaconda who made the section of multi conductor i used! I came up with a novel pivot point at the pole to so it can rotate easily. I initially intended to use it to monitor sperics but, It is extremely efficient at picking up 60 cycle - even though we're all underground utilities and it sits way in the back of my large back yard. I will try using it for VLF reception this weekend as a tunable loop with a preamp. My receiver only goes down to 150 khz. Dang! I just remembered, i hace access to a Rycom selective level meter at work. Problem is i'm leaving for Texas for a month on Monday. Oh well... I'll try to post some pics before i go.
Later,
john
KG6ZBN

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

199. RE: [lowfrequency] Re: Where Your Moderator's head has been at lately...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-10-09 21:23:39 UTC
From: W1EOF
Topic: 191 Message: 199

Zack - This is probably a dumb question, but bear with me. When I look at the pictures on KI0LE's page it appears like it's actually two loops pancaked next to each other. I'm more familiar with the loops that are wound around a cylinder (even if it's a very very short cylinder). Can you explain, or show us how the wire is wound on this loop?

73,

Mark W1EOF

-----Original Message-----
From: Zack Widup [mailto:w9sz.zack@...]
Sent: Monday, October 09, 2006 10:03 AM
To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [lowfrequency] Re: Where Your Moderator's head has been at lately...

I have just built KI0LE's loop:

http://www.cpinternet.com/~ki0le/pages/loop1.htm

I'm working on a preamp that I can mount on the antenna in a waterproof housing. Now I just have to figure out where to put this thing up!

I hope the winter season is good.

73, Zack W9SZ

Recent Activity
a.. 2New Members
b.. 1New Links
Visit Your Group
SPONSORED LINKS
a.. Hobby photography
b.. Hobby toy
c.. Ham radio
d.. Ham radio antenna
e.. Ham radio sales
Y! GeoCities
Be Interactive

Create a conver-

sation with blogs.

Y! Toolbar
Get it Free!

easy 1-click access

to your groups.

Yahoo! Groups
Start a group

in 3 easy steps.

Connect with others.
.

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

200. Re: [lowfrequency] Re: Where Your Moderator's head has been at lately...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-10-10 15:20:38 UTC
From: Zack Widup
Topic: 191 Message: 200

Hi Mark,

I had trouble figuring that out at first, too. I wound it so that every other turn was on the other side of the frame - the wires cross on one of the five sides of the loop. I used #18 insulated wire; I found a large roll of it in a hardware store. I can take some photos with close-ups of the windings if you'd like.

73, Zack W9SZ

On 10/9/06, W1EOF <w1eof@...> wrote:
>
> .
>
>
>
Zack - This is probably a dumb question, but bear with me. When I look at the pictures on KI0LE's page it appears like it's actually two loops pancaked next to each other. I'm more familiar with the loops that are wound around a cylinder (even if it's a very very short cylinder). Can you explain, or show us how the wire is wound on this loop?

73,

Mark W1EOF

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

201. band open

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-10-28 11:59:09 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 201 Message: 201

vlf was open this morning up till 7:00 am eastern
also heard one beacon that I found no info
415 khz listening in upper sideband VIN (space)U
Qth here is Herndon,Penna 17830

Low, Low, Low Rates! Check out Yahoo! Messenger's cheap PC-to-Phone call rates
(http://voice.yahoo.com)

202. dx signal

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-11-12 11:51:27 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 202 Message: 202

Hi All was listening this morning at 11:00 utc and
heard what I think was TT from Santan,Indonesia on
210....I am using a Kenwood R-1000 in the usb mode
with a 200 foot long wire also was using Spectrum Lab
Software and looked like 2 T's it was very weak.
and not a s on the end.....Is it possible that I heard
that station....

Cheap talk?
Check out Yahoo! Messenger's low PC-to-Phone call rates.
http://voice.yahoo.com

203. mode /frequency

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-11-15 02:52:05 UTC
From: Beau
Topic: 203 Message: 203

Hi all i am mew here i can hear some kind of digital mode
on 97.47khz 24/7 how can i find out what it is
it rims from 92.71 to 112.35 khz how can i look it upthank n9mfk

204. Re: [lowfrequency] mode /frequency

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-11-15 18:33:15 UTC
From: Brooke Clarke
Topic: 203 Message: 204

Hi Beau:

Google for LORAN-C.
http://www.pacificsites.com/~brooke/Nav.shtml#Loran

Have Fun,

Brooke Clarke, N6GCE

w/Java http://www.PRC68.com
w/o Java http://www.pacificsites.com/~brooke/PRC68COM.shtml
http://www.precisionclock.com

lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com wrote:

>
>1. mode /frequency
> Posted by: "Beau" n9mfk@... n9mfk9
> Date: Tue Nov 14, 2006 7:09 pm ((PST))
>
>Hi all i am mew here i can hear some kind of digital mode
>on 97.47khz 24/7 how can i find out what it is
>it rims from 92.71 to 112.35 khz how can i look it upthank n9mfk
>
>
>
>
>
>

205. tie

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-11-24 00:18:20 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 205 Message: 205

I heard this beacon this morning TIE on or near 336
but have not found anything as to where it is from

_____
Do you Yahoo!?
Everyone is raving about the all-new Yahoo! Mail beta.
http://new.mail.yahoo.com

206. this weekend

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-12-21 02:44:39 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 206 Message: 206

Does anyone have any info about transmitter that will
be on the air this coming sunday morning early on VLF

_____
Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
http://mail.yahoo.com

207. Re: this weekend

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2006-12-21 19:02:32 UTC
From: caladonia5560
Topic: 206 Message: 207

Check out http://www.lwca.org/ for info on upcoming SAQ transmissions
on 17.2 kHz on Dec 24th.

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, Dennis Williard <ka3bvj@...> wrote:
>
> Does anyone have any info about transmitter that will
> be on the air this coming sunday morning early on VLF
>
> _____
> Do You Yahoo!?
> Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
> http://mail.yahoo.com
>

208. K9AY Loop on LF / VLF?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-01-05 15:34:33 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 208 Message: 208

Howdy, Troops!

I've been intrigued by the K9AY directional loop for some time now, tho I've yet to erect one (one of the 50 different "gotta do" projects here) for AM BCB DXing.

The obvious question becomes "what will a K9AY do on LF and VLF?".

Working with intuition and assumptions here... the K9AY is a nonresonant antenna, and therefore inherently broadband. Signal output to the receiver would therefore seem to be a matter of the antenna's aperture; the bigger ya make the antenna, the more signal ya get!

Is anyone out there using a K9AY loop/ ESPECIALLY for Beacon Hunting on the 190 - 450 KHz range?

If so... how large did you make your antenna?

Is your support conductive (i.e., a tower, steel flagpole, pipe, etc.), or nonconductive (i.e., PVC pipe, suspended from a tree limb, etc.)?

How are the directional characteristics of a (relatively) small K9AY?

What I have in mind for the grand K9AY experiment here is a support made of large diameter PVC pipe, guyed by the two crossed K9AYs. Hopefully, 30 - 40 feet of large PVC, so guyed, will be a sturdy enough structure to stand.

Mr. T., W9LBB

209. VIN 417

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-01-07 12:09:33 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 209 Message: 209

Anyone know what station I am hearing on 417 khz this
is the 2nd time that I have heard it it seems to be 4
letter call VINU. I have check 2 online dir's just
looking for vin with no luck..
Also heard the WD2XSH\10 this morning 508 khz around
11:15 gmt

_____
Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
http://mail.yahoo.com

210. Re: [lowfrequency] VIN 417

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-01-08 16:35:08 UTC
From: Kevin Mathison
Topic: 209 Message: 210

I have also heard this station here in Mount Clemens,
MI. Would be interested knowing also.
Kevin WB8AIZ

211. Re: [lowfrequency] VIN 417

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-01-09 10:46:56 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 209 Message: 211

Let me know if you find anything out ...de Dennis
ka3bvj
I am on echolink and qsonet..

--- Kevin Mathison <wb8aiz@...> wrote:

> I have also heard this station here in Mount
> Clemens,
> MI. Would be interested knowing also.
> Kevin WB8AIZ
>
>
>

_____
Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
http://mail.yahoo.com

212. VINU 417

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-01-20 10:53:55 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 212 Message: 212

I hearing this station again VINU at 417 khz 6:00am
eastern here in Pa.. I still have not found out it is
comiing from...

_____
Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
http://mail.yahoo.com

213. Re: VIN 417 Google search VINU on 416 kHz was negative keying beacon BKL!!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-02-23 22:10:02 UTC
From: g4ofv
Topic: 209 Message: 213

Hi Guys

Looked though my records found nothing I recorded in Europe but when doing Google search found this remark!

VINU on 416 kHz was determined to be negative keying for beacon BKL, Cleveland, OH. Two distant catches were DDP on 391 kHz at Dorado, Puerto Rico and IIY on 435 kHz at Washington, GA.

Follow Linke too:

http://www.dxing.com/intrigue.htm

Hope this helps?

73 Neil

214. this morning band open

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-02-24 12:09:51 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 214 Message: 214

Vlf was wide open this morning was able to go to 20 Db
mode.. heard 45 stations even at the 524 HZ with the
very Am station running at 530 HZ Just a fun Morning
QTH is Herndon,PA Rec Kenwood R-1000 ant 200 ft long
wire signals at AM 530 were 30 over

_____
Finding fabulous fares is fun.
Let Yahoo! FareChase search your favorite travel sites to find flight and hotel bargains.
http://farechase.yahoo.com/promo-generic-14795097

215. Re: this morning band open

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-02-25 15:02:06 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 214 Message: 215

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, Dennis Williard <ka3bvj@...> wrote:
>
> Vlf was wide open this morning was able to go to 20 Db
> mode.. heard 45 stations even at the 524 HZ with the
> very Am station running at 530 HZ Just a fun Morning
> QTH is Herndon,PA Rec Kenwood R-1000 ant 200 ft long
> wire signals at AM 530 were 30 over
>
>
>
>

Glad to hear that SOMEBODY had a good time on LF / VLF!

Over here in Wisconsin, we're in the middle of winter storm/blizzard conditions, and my antennas gave up the ghost. The ONLY antennas I still have up are a VHF / UHF discone, and a 137 MHz weather bird downlinking quad helix (rather fitting, if you think about it)!

We got about 8 - 10 inches of snow on Saturday, and we're expecting 8 - 17 today.

Have NO idea when we're going to be able to get the skyhooks back up here; belly deep snow is a ROTTEN time to erect antennas. For the time being, the only stuff we'll be hearing on a radio is National Weather Service alerts.

Mr. T., W9LBB

216. NDBs on a HF Receiver?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-03-04 01:37:46 UTC
From: Lee H. Badman
Topic: 216 Message: 216

Hello to the group-

I recently stumbled accross a couple of NDBs while in the DC area (DC and GTN), and now I'm hooked. Back home in upstate NY, have found another bunch from NY, Canada, and even a nice long-range find from Carolina Beach in North Carolina. All of these have been found with my Grundig YB 400 PE. That's working fine, but I'm also a ham, and have HF gear that gets down low. I know in the Grundig, it's the internal antenna that picks these up. I tried on my HF rigs, but they seem to be deaf as stumps at the NDB range- I would have expected the multiband long wire antenna to bring in these same freqs just fine on the more expensive HF rigs... What am I missing- do I just need a better, more-specific antenna, or is something in the AM circuits of these rigs not suited for the likes of NDBs?

Probably sound foolish with these questions, but this little niche is new to me. Thanks much-

Lee
KC2IYK

217. Re: [lowfrequency] NDBs on a HF Receiver?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-03-04 05:21:38 UTC
From: dennis
Topic: 216 Message: 217

Good evening Lee

I have found many of the ham rigs have very poor sensitivity below 160m.

I am presently am using the Ten Tec 320D receiver.

I also use some lowfer software that feeds into the sound card on my computer.
It helps picks pick the signals out of the noise I have around here.

If I can be of further help, let me know

Dennis
KE0QM

> Hello to the group-
>
> I recently stumbled accross a couple of NDBs while in the DC area
> (DC and GTN), and now I'm hooked. Back home in upstate NY, have
> found another bunch from NY, Canada, and even a nice long-range find
> from Carolina Beach in North Carolina. All of these have been found
> with my Grundig YB 400 PE. That's working fine, but I'm also a ham,
> and have HF gear that gets down low. I know in the Grundig, it's the
> internal antenna that picks these up. I tried on my HF rigs, but
> they seem to be deaf as stumps at the NDB range- I would have
> expected the multiband long wire antenna to bring in these same
> freqs just fine on the more expensive HF rigs... What am I missing-
> do I just need a better, more-specific antenna, or is something in
> the AM circuits of these rigs not suited for the likes of NDBs?
>
> Probably sound foolish with these questions, but this little niche
> is new to me. Thanks much-
>
> Lee
> KC2IYK

218. Re: [lowfrequency] Digest Number 127

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-03-04 18:53:40 UTC
From: Brooke Clarke
Topic: 218 Message: 218

Hi Lee:

Yes, there are a number of new issues involved in getting a receiver to work at LF. For more details check out the AMARD site that talks about things like power supply noise and the design of the Cubic 3030 receiver.

One solution is to get a Palamor Eng. converter and do use the 9 volt battery, not a wall wart for power. Then your HF radio tunes 4 MHz + lf frequency so the readout works.

Have Fun,

Brooke Clarke, N6GCE

w/Java http://www.PRC68.com
w/o Java http://www.pacificsites.com/~brooke/PRC68COM.shtml
http://www.precisionclock.com

>
>1a. NDBs on a HF Receiver?
> Posted by: "Lee H. Badman" lbadman@... lhbadman
> Date: Sat Mar 3, 2007 5:38 pm ((PST))
>
>Hello to the group-
>
>I recently stumbled accross a couple of NDBs while in the DC area
>(DC and GTN), and now I'm hooked. Back home in upstate NY, have
>found another bunch from NY, Canada, and even a nice long-range find
>from Carolina Beach in North Carolina. All of these have been found
>with my Grundig YB 400 PE. That's working fine, but I'm also a ham,
>and have HF gear that gets down low. I know in the Grundig, it's the
>internal antenna that picks these up. I tried on my HF rigs, but
>they seem to be deaf as stumps at the NDB range- I would have
>expected the multiband long wire antenna to bring in these same
>freqs just fine on the more expensive HF rigs... What am I missing-
>do I just need a better, more-specific antenna, or is something in
>the AM circuits of these rigs not suited for the likes of NDBs?
>
>Probably sound foolish with these questions, but this little niche
>is new to me. Thanks much-
>
>Lee
>KC2IYK
>
>
>

>

219. Re: NDBs on a HF Receiver?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-04-11 14:57:07 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 216 Message: 219

Howdy, Lee!

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Lee H. Badman" <lbadman@...>
wrote:

> I recently stumbled accross a couple of NDBs while in the DC area
> (DC and GTN), and now I'm hooked. Back home in upstate NY, have
> found another bunch from NY, Canada, and even a nice long-range
find
> from Carolina Beach in North Carolina. All of these have been
found
> with my Grundig YB 400 PE. That's working fine, but I'm also a
ham,
> and have HF gear that gets down low. I know in the Grundig, it's
the
> internal antenna that picks these up. I tried on my HF rigs, but
> they seem to be deaf as stumps at the NDB range- I would have
> expected the multiband long wire antenna to bring in these same
> freqs just fine on the more expensive HF rigs... What am I missing-

> do I just need a better, more-specific antenna, or is something in
> the AM circuits of these rigs not suited for the likes of NDBs?
>
> Probably sound foolish with these questions, but this little niche
> is new to me. Thanks much-
>
> Lee
> KC2IYK
>

Well, my ham gear isn't exactly cutting edge stuff; I'm mainly into
Boat Anchor rigs, but I DO have a Kenwood TS-140S for those odd
times I want to get on SSB.

The receiver in that rig works OK on the Beacon Band, but
performancewise it's nothing to write home about. I believe that
Kenwood only guarantees spec performance down to 500 KHz... and
that's about all it's gonna give me.

I was able to weakly copy WWVB on it once (60 KHz), but I had to
hook the beast to my 160 Windom to do it! With that big honkin'
antenna you should be able to copy WWVB on a crystal set!

Another receiver here of similar vintage, an Icom R71A, has a
modified ROM chip installed for an extended tuning range down to 5
KHz. That one does OK in the Beacon Band and below (Icom says rated
specs down to 100 KHz, I think). WWVB comes in loud and clear, and

tho it loses sensitivity some below that it's useful to about 20 KHz. I suspect that the problem here is that some of the RF chokes in the front end need more inductance to go lower effectively; the modified RF preamp becomes an ATTENUATOR below the middle of the AM broadcast band (that's why the rig's stock diode switching matrix disables the preamp at something like 1500 KHz and below).

If connected to a decent LF antenna, the JRC NRD-525 and Drake R8 do a respectable job below 500 KHz. On the NRD-525 tho, rig top antennas (i.e., small loops) have to be avoided; the flourescent display driver and power supply radiate trash like mad thru the front panel on LF / VLF.

On the other hand, SOME receivers that are SUPPOSED to cover VLF do a pretty poor job of it... and that includes some respected "high end" Premium receivers.

The Watkins Johnson 8716 (more specifically the Navy copy of it, the AN/URR-74-V2) is rated to go down to 5 KHz. Mine is quite good down to about 20 KHz, and below that it's USELESS; the 5 - 20 KHz range is full of internally generated birdies from things like the digital display. I can only imagine that it's even worse in the much ballyhooed 8716MFP (Microprocessor Front Panel) version of the radio. Watkins Johnson made good radios for the military and SIGINT types, but I find they included VLF coverage as an afterthought.

Mr. T., W9LBB

220. INSANE used receiver prices!!!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-05-02 19:23:02 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 220 Message: 220

Been looking at communications receivers on EBAY lately? Especially the VLF variety?

Are you as shocked as I am???

A couple of weeks ago a sort of scarce VLF receiver popped up, an old Hammarlund SP-600VLF. I've got one here; tubes, double conversion, 10 - 600 KHz, circa 1950s. Not a bad receiver at all, but there's MUCH better performers out there these days. Just out of curiosity I kept it on my WATCH list.

Bidding got it to about $935.00 ... but it never hit the seller's fixed reserve figure!!! IMHO the realistic value of the radio is found by dividing that figure by 3 or 4.

The same receiver was relisted this week, and it sold.

Would you believe $1,700.00 ??? That's more than it cost NEW.

A couple of weeks ago, my all time favorite receiver, a Racal RA-1772, hit EBAY. These are professional grade receivers for military and maritime service that tune 15 - 30,000 KHz; solid state (i.e., weighs about HALF what the Hammarlund does!), late 1970's design and construction. On LF and VLF they're EXCELLENT performers. If you get a military rig that has the AFC and ISB options installed (most of them have it) the beast does a quite good job of synchronous detection of AM signals. They make EXCELLENT ham and SWL receivers, and do a great job in hunting digital modes in utility DXing. I've owned a LOT of receivers over the last 50 years (better than 200), and the RA-1772 is my ALL TIME FAVORITE of the bunch.

I now have THREE of them (if that's not an endorsement, I don't know what IS), all purchased off of EBAY over the last 4 years. My most expensive one (the first) was $700, plus the cost of importation from England... so figure about $850.00 all told. The next two were both already in the US, and including shipping they both came in under $700.00 . All three radios were in what I would describe as very good shape, completely operational and not battered.

The RA-1772 that came up on EBAY in the last couple of weeks was an ex military radio (Royal Navy or Royal Air Force nomenclature plate and MOD tag attached to the front panel). It was SLIGHTLY unusual; it included the seldom seen built in RTTY decoder (somewhat useless, really; limited in shifts and speeds and keying a 100 VDC teletypewriter loop circuit... so drag out that trusty Teletype Corporation Model 15 printer you've been trying to give away at hamfests for the last 10 years!). Condition looked pretty good

overall.

Would you believe bidders were trampling each other to death to pay over $1800.00 for the radio???

What's going on out there? Have people suddenly lost thier senses when it comes to radio gear?

People... THIS IS JUST A HOBBY! IT'S NOT A LIFE OR DEATH MATTER!

Before the Racals, I used to be addicted to Collins R-390s and R-390As; at one time I had 4 of them watching hot digital mode frequencies 24/7. A few years ago I got tired of trying to keep them supplied with decent tubes, and with some twinges of regret I took them out to hamfests to give them new homes, along with Hammarlund SP-600s of various versions.

None of the radios were fancy; they were just hard working ex military Cold Warriors with scratches and dings. I tagged them at about $250.00 each. At a 2 day hamfest near Chicago they all went... and I felt lucky that I didn't lose any money on them. They were replaced by more modern designs that weigh a LOT less, and which perform a hell of a lot better.

Check out what R-390s are fetching on EBAY... $500.00 to $1,200 a pop seems to be typical.

I look at the SP-600VLF and R-389 (LF/VLF version of the R-390) that are still in the shack and wonder if I should finally let go of them on EBAY.

I'm throughly convinced that EBAY is now inhabited by folks with FAR more money than brains. You don't see very many communications receivers on the hamfest circuit anymore; it's too profitable to find some looney on EBAY that'll buy ANY chunk of junk sight unseen.

Mr. T., W9LBB

221. Re: [lowfrequency] INSANE used receiver prices!!!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-05-02 20:18:08 UTC
From: Zack Widup
Topic: 220 Message: 221

One thing I hate about eBay is the phenomenon I call "feeding frenzy". People get into bidding wars, all logic and coolness goes out the window and they end up paying more than the item is worth.

I saw this happen with an HP 84XX power sensor the other day. Those things can't be worth $500, can they? Maybe so. I don't know. I'm not going to pay that much for one.

Sometimes things get overlooked and you get some deals, too. It's almost a matter of chance to me.

At our local ham club auction, an R-388 was donated to the club for bidding (the club got all the money). It went for $400. I think everyone came out winning on that one. :-)

73, Zack W9SZ

On Wed, 2 May 2007, Tom Adams wrote:

> Been looking at communications receivers on EBAY lately? Especially
> the VLF variety?
>
> Are you as shocked as I am???
>
> A couple of weeks ago a sort of scarce VLF receiver popped up, an old
> Hammarlund SP-600VLF. I've got one here; tubes, double conversion,
> 10 - 600 KHz, circa 1950s. Not a bad receiver at all, but there's
> MUCH better performers out there these days. Just out of curiosity I
> kept it on my WATCH list.
>
> Bidding got it to about $935.00 ... but it never hit the seller's
> fixed reserve figure!!! IMHO the realistic value of the radio is
> found by dividing that figure by 3 or 4.
>
> The same receiver was relisted this week, and it sold.
>
> Would you believe $1,700.00 ??? That's more than it cost NEW.
>

222. RE: [lowfrequency] INSANE used receiver prices!!!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-05-02 22:09:27 UTC
From: Stumm, John C
Topic: 220 Message: 222

Tom,
I've been noticing it for a while, although you are right in that it is really getting carried away. I see lot of foreign collectors that stop at nothing to get what they want. I quit buying radios a while ago, (collectables that is) I think I will go into a sell mode now. With 150+ radios, I need to badly. Come to think of it, I should do the same with my stock market investments too!
I'm sure there's down turn looming. A least a big sell-off.

Regards,
John
KG6ZBN

>To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
>Subject: [lowfrequency] INSANE used receiver prices!!!

>Been looking at communications receivers on EBAY lately? Especially
>the VLF variety?

>Are you as shocked as I am???

223. FS: Low Freq Rcvr

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-05-06 18:49:14 UTC
From: Walter Treftz
Topic: 223 Message: 223

I have a Sierra model 121 tunable selective VTVM that goes up to 600 kcs
to offload. I picked it up as heard these instruments work well as
a LF rcvr. Its an older model (tube) so can be fixed by non-SS
experts. I'm pretty sure I have a manual for it also. Its in good
condx. Reason for dumping is that I recently picked up both a (new)
Sierra 128A that is far superior plus was given a HP selective VTVM
that contains a counter.
I'd be happy to pass it on for the $40 I have in it (my cost to buy) +
shipping. Available in northern Florida. Can pack it and haul to USPO
or UPS at no additional costs. Naturally pickup or meet at a Fla
hamfest would be ideal (I plan to hit the Melbourne fest in Sept). Can
supply complete description and digital pix.
73
Walt (N4GL) sjotrollet@yahoo. com (352) 637-1755

Ahhh...imagining that irresistible "new car" smell?
Check outnew cars at Yahoo! Autos.

Ahhh...imagining that irresistible "new car" smell?
Check outnew cars at Yahoo! Autos.

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

224. Top Band (160M) operation.

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-05-15 18:06:15 UTC
From: ve7cyb
Topic: 224 Message: 224

Is there any QRSS activity in the 160 metre band? I thought
that it could be interesting to work that mode, late night on
ARRL Field Day; after 40, 20, 15 10 metres give out and
contacts thin to only dup's.

I tried ARGO the other day and had surprizing results, even
whistling to the lap-top's built in mike. It'd pick up at a
very long distance, much further than what a human could hear.

The last postings on most chat groups re 160 metre band QRSS was
three or four years old.

Is there any QRSS activity there?

It'd be possible by moving the feed point on the 80M antenna
and jumpering the centre insulator. That'd be a 1/4 wave
at 160 if I had some grounds available underneath the
end feed point. (antenna tunner is expected!)

Robert, VE7CYB

225. It's getting close to LF / VLF season; antenna work time is NOW!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-09-07 14:26:55 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 225 Message: 225

Howdy, Troops!

Right after Labor Day my head always turns to that antenna work I've been putting off all summer... gotta go for it NOW before the snow flies. So... it's time to reluctantly give up a weekend or two on the motorcycle and start measuring and stringing up wire.

This year the LF antenna choices are going to be simple here; I'm lucky enough to have enough space for pretty substantial long wires, held up by trees. The main BCB / LF / VLF skyhook for this winter is going to be a 300' run of #14 copperweld; nothing fancy, just an end fed wire. There are other approaches to LF reception I've taken in the past, but I always seem to wind up going back to the basics like this. Why is that?

Well, I've run E field active whips (102" CB whip with a preamp, mounted on a post out in the yard), remotely mounted active whip / VLF converter combinations, loops (both horizontal and vertical, both indoor and outdoor), base loaded verticals, and even (briefly) a BIG version of the K9AY directional loop (not real successful)!

ALL of these critters promised to be THE Trick Setup for VLF, but they were all found to be wanting in one way or another.

I've found that any system that powers a remote preamp thru the coax is just asking for trouble in the Wisconsin climate. I've never gotten the knack of making connectors completely waterproof; sooner or later water gets into 'em.

Besides that, a remote preamp in and of itself has other problems.

I'm in a location where I have a LOT of RF floating around from a directional AM broadcast array (5 KW) less than a mile away; fortunately, the station signs off at sunset. Designing and building an intermodulation distortion proof broadband preamp for ANY frequency range isn't as easy (or as CHEAP) as it first looks on paper.

Beyond that, I get tired of replacing FET front end devices that get blown to hell by lightning that's 20 miles away... or by my own ham band transmitters! For a while I had to quit using my old Globe King 500 on 160 meter AM because I was sure to lose an MPF-102 or two in the remote LF preamps every time I tripped the PLATE ON switch! Using crossed diode gate protection isn't really a viable approach; because of the hot RF fields around here, those nice, nonlinear clipping diodes generate even MORE intermod garbage.

Indoor loops have preamps, but not the same problems as outdoor preamps. Instead, an indoor loop generally suffers from noise pickup problems; your loop is INSIDE of loops of house wiring that's loaded with electronic crud and noise. Using an H field (i.e., shielded) loop design helps, but it doesn't completely eliminate the noise problems... like the Idiot Box sucking in TV atrocities in the immediate vicinity; the horizontal sweep and high voltage sections radiate nice, nasty signals on 15,734 Hz, plus a TON of powerful harmonics.

Besides that, an indoor loop suffers from small signal output because of it's small aperture (pickup area). I tend to build indoor loops that are BIG (try six feet on a side for one ill fated creation!) to make the pickup window area as large as possible... but the space problems are obvious, not to mention that any loop of practical (or IMpractical!) area isn't that much better at signal pickup than a physically small loop.

Using an oversized, ferrite loaded loopstick design helps with the mechanical and space problems somewhat, but it's still mechanically awkward (my 7 - 25 KHz super loopstick is only about 4" in diameter... but it's STILL over 7 feet long!)... and any practical indoor loop or loopstick has nowhere near the signal pickup aperture of an outdoor long wire.

Granted, a low, short horizontal wire (low and short in terms of wavelength, that is) is far from an optimal antenna... but in the long run I've found it to be the most practical and versatile solution for low frequency reception. Hooking it to an indoor tunable preselector (NOT a broadband preamp!) beats the problem of lowering RF impedance as frequency goes down, and does a whole lot to help the intermod problems from big, off frequency signals in the area. In the event that you go REALLY low in frequency and the wire's feedpoint impedance gets too low even for your preselector to get much out of it (unlikely, but possible) it's no great problem to add a loading inductor at the input to bring the wire closer to resonance, and bring the impedance numbers up.

So... based on a lot of years of experience in low frequency listening, I'm going back to first principles on antennas this year. Sure, there's gonna be some new design that catches my eye next year, and we'll give it a try... but I'm betting that in the end I'll wind up going back to the trusty old random wire antenna.

One of thesae days I'm gonna live on a mountaintop, and have a MONSTER long wire scrung across a valley to another peak! <<GRIN>>

Now... gotta get back to the math for designing my broadband HF antennas for this winter!

Mr. T., W9LBB

226. Re: [lowfrequency] It's getting close to LF / VLF season; antenna work time is NOW!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-09-07 15:14:18 UTC
From: Zack Widup
Topic: 225 Message: 226

On Fri, 7 Sep 2007, Tom Adams wrote:

> Howdy, Troops!
>
> Right after Labor Day my head always turns to that antenna work I've
> been putting off all summer... gotta go for it NOW before the snow
> flies. So... it's time to reluctantly give up a weekend or two on the
> motorcycle and start measuring and stringing up wire.
>

I've been thinking about making a different loop for VLF receiving. The one I made last year doesn't do so well, I suspect because the wires are too close together and inter-wire capacitance is causing problems.

How many of you use loops for receiving? What seems to be a good size for a loop? I was thinking of a rectangular loop made with PVC pipe to support the wire. Is ther a minimum size of square loop, below which the results aren't so good? I don't think I can fit a 10 foot square loop into my yard.

73, Zack W9SZ

227. RE: [lowfrequency] It's getting close to LF / VLF season; antenna work time is NOW!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-09-07 19:55:06 UTC
From: Stumm, John C
Topic: 225 Message: 227

Zack
I use a combination of loops as I like to compare performances. I build different ferrite and air core heads for my Palomar base. They cover LW, MW and SW. I also have a outside loop that runs along the top of my fence that surrounds my lot. As far as loop size,the bigger the aperture the better. You can downsize the diameter and add turns but performance suffers. (We're talkin SW) For lower frequencies, MW, a 3 foot/side 13 turn square box works very well.
Go bigger and they get too cumbersome. For LW, I have various PVC Small diameter loops into which I insert a stormwise 18" core. I've built 17 plu-in heads for the Palomar to span a wide spectrum. I've recently started making wider range air core heads by using bare copper windings and tapping down the turns leaving an even # of unused turns on the outsides. The inner ones remain active with the center tap open, feeding the balanced amp. The taps on both sides then just short together with one jumper. Works well this way and is actually more noise immune. The conventionally wound loop would pick up noise from my test radio's digital display. With the split centertap wound loop, no interference! When I get another camera, I can post pics if you like. The Loopantennas group already has a lot of my early work if you want to go air core. Some ferrite cores too. Here's a link for one that might be of interest:
http://www.qsl.net/k0lr/simple-loop/Simple-Loop.htm

Regards,
John

From: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com on behalf of Zack Widup
Sent: Fri 9/7/2007 8:14 AM
To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [lowfrequency] It's getting close to LF / VLF season; antenna work time is NOW!

On Fri, 7 Sep 2007, Tom Adams wrote:

> Howdy, Troops!
>
> Right after Labor Day my head always turns to that antenna work I've
> been putting off all summer... gotta go for it NOW before the snow
> flies. So... it's time to reluctantly give up a weekend or two on the
> motorcycle and start measuring and stringing up wire.
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I've been thinking about making a different loop for VLF receiving. The one I made last year doesn't do so well, I suspect because the wires are too close together and inter-wire capacitance is causing problems.

How many of you use loops for receiving? What seems to be a good size for a loop? I was thinking of a rectangular loop made with PVC pipe to support the wire. Is ther a minimum size of square loop, below which the results aren't so good? I don't think I can fit a 10 foot square loop into my yard.

73, Zack W9SZ

How LOW can your rig GO?
Yahoo! Groups Links

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

228. RE: It's getting close to LF / VLF season; antenna work time is NOW!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-09-08 17:14:49 UTC
From: Dave
Topic: 225 Message: 228

>Beyond that, I get tired of replacing FET front end devices that get
>blown to hell by lightning that's 20 miles away... or by my own ham
>band transmitters! For a while I had to quit using my old Globe King
>500 on 160 meter AM because I was sure to lose an MPF-102 or two in
>the remote LF preamps every time I tripped the PLATE ON switch! Using
>crossed diode gate protection isn't really a viable approach; because
>of the hot RF fields around here, those nice, nonlinear clipping
>diodes generate even MORE intermod garbage.

How about trying a 6DJ8. Lots of headroom and virtually indestructible.

/Dave

229. Re: It's getting close to LF / VLF season; antenna work time is NOW!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-09-13 14:11:56 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 225 Message: 229

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, Zack Widup <w9sz@...> wrote:
>
> I've been thinking about making a different loop for VLF
receiving. The
> one I made last year doesn't do so well, I suspect because the
wires are
> too close together and inter-wire capacitance is causing problems.
>
> How many of you use loops for receiving? What seems to be a good
size for
> a loop? I was thinking of a rectangular loop made with PVC pipe to
> support the wire. Is ther a minimum size of square loop, below
which the
> results aren't so good? I don't think I can fit a 10 foot square
loop into
> my yard.
>
> 73, Zack W9SZ

The winding capacitance IS a problem; it limits how high the loop is tunable by imposing a self resonance frequency on you.

To deal with that and move self resonance as high as possible there's a couple of tricks I've used on loops and loopsticks.

I have a mini circular table saw here, and on PVC framed loops (I gave up on wood long ago) I routinely use it to slot the wire support members at preset spacing intervals. Before that, I was simply gluing strips of grooved rubber doormat material to the wire supporting members to provide clearly defined grooves to put the wire into. After winding, the wire and doormat material got painted over heavily with contact cement to lock the winding in place.

As far as VERY large square loops (over 6 feet on a side) are concerned, I've only done one in the recent past, strictly as an experiment; the beast was PVC framed and 10 feet on a side. Besides the obvious problem of such a monstrosity being too big to bring indoors, the design becomes mechanically unstable to the point that simple things like breezes or vibration thru the floor move the windings enough to detune the loop seriously when it's wound with Litz wire or small magnet wire (gauge #20 or smaller). The project was finally deemed impractical and the monster loop was scrapped.

BTW... the whole reason for it's construction was to provide something that would work well at frequencies below 50 KHz, the idea being to attempt reception of the Japanese time signal station JJY at

40 KHz.

Optimum size for an INDOOR use LF loop (perhaps 100 KHz bottom end) is, IMHO, about 1 to 1.5 meters on a side, and perhaps 6 to 8 inches thick.

On my Super Loopstick designs, the strategy to reduce winding capacitance was to put on the winding bifilar with monofiliment fishing line as a spacer. For #26 wire I found 50 pound test to be optimum.

See the pictures of the Super Loopstick in the photos section for an example of this.

You could reduce capacitance still further by removing the fishing line once the winding is in place (the line acts as a capacitor dielectric after all), but considering the construction hassles of keeping the copper winding spaced in place when you do that, I just leave the fishing line in place on the finished winding. I normally finish off the winding with thinned, clear polyurethane varnish to lock everything in place. That too increases winding capacitance slightly, but you're still much better off than you'd be with a close wound coil.

So far that's been quite satisfactory... the winding capacitance is effectively reduced to the point where you can usually move the self resonance point to above the desired tuning range.

Mr. T., W9LBB

230. Re: It's getting close to LF / VLF season; antenna work time is NOW!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-09-13 14:39:33 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 225 Message: 230

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, Dave <dave@...> wrote:
>
> >Beyond that, I get tired of replacing FET front end devices that get
> >blown to hell by lightning that's 20 miles away... or by my own ham
> >band transmitters! For a while I had to quit using my old Globe King
> >500 on 160 meter AM because I was sure to lose an MPF-102 or two in
> >the remote LF preamps every time I tripped the PLATE ON switch!
Using
> >crossed diode gate protection isn't really a viable approach;
because
> >of the hot RF fields around here, those nice, nonlinear clipping
> >diodes generate even MORE intermod garbage.
>
> How about trying a 6DJ8. Lots of headroom and virtually
indestructible.
>

I've considered using tube preamps, and I may do it some day... but not at the moment.

In Helliwell's book WHISTLERS AND RELATED IONOSPHERIC PHENOMENON, and subsequent other stuff that he published re. the 1957 International Geophysical Year whistler studies in Antarctica, he talks about the use of tube preamps on thier VLF antennas. He seems to have preferred 12AX7 or 12AT7 in thier stuff, with a HUGE toroidal input transformer for impedance matching the loops they used to the tube grid impedance.

His main comment was about very short tube life; NOT because of tube failure, but because of a slow, gradual increase in tube noise figure with use. It's been years since I read the book in detail, but if I remember correctly useful tube life was something like 500 hours.

In my case, I hesitate to do tube preamps because of the hassle of sending B+ cables out to the preamps. Besides the problem of moisture infiltrating even the best installations, I keep remembering what happened when I hired a kid to cut my lawn; a riding lawnmower can make a hell of a mess out of RG8/U when the lawnmower operator is too dumb (or too forgetful) to avoid or temporarily move the line!

Anybody want some two foot lengths of Belden RG8/U? ;o)

Mr. T., W9LBB

231. RE: Re: It's getting close to LF / VLF season; antenna work time is NOW!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-09-14 14:26:33 UTC
From: Dave
Topic: 225 Message: 231

>> How about trying a 6DJ8. Lots of headroom and virtually indestructible.
>>

>I've considered using tube preamps, and I may do it some day... but not
>at the moment.

>In Helliwell's book WHISTLERS AND RELATED IONOSPHERIC PHENOMENON, and
>subsequent other stuff that he published re. the 1957 International
>Geophysical Year whistler studies in Antarctica, he talks about the use
>of tube preamps on thier VLF antennas. He seems to have preferred 12AX7
>or 12AT7 in thier stuff, with a HUGE toroidal input transformer for
>impedance matching the loops they used to the tube grid impedance.

>His main comment was about very short tube life; NOT because of tube
>failure, but because of a slow, gradual increase in tube noise figure
>with use. It's been years since I read the book in detail, but if I
>remember correctly useful tube life was something like 500 hours.

A 6DJ8 (6922) may be a better choice since it starts out with a much lower noise figure and it's comparable in gain with a 12AT7. You could always run it a bit on the lower disapation side to extend the life. Also, the impedance for a tuned loop is quite high depending on the desired Q... No? shouldn't need a transformer just like the FET case.

>In my case, I hesitate to do tube preamps because of the hassle of
>sending B+ cables out to the preamps. Besides the problem of moisture
>infiltrating even the best installations, I keep remembering what
>happened when I hired a kid to cut my lawn; a riding lawnmower can make
>a hell of a mess out of RG8/U when the lawnmower operator is too dumb
>(or too forgetful) to avoid or temporarily move the line!

Yes... This can be a real pain in the neck. One tip I've used is to make a slit in the ground with a flat spade by which you can easily and quickly bury the RG-8. It'll only be a couple of inches down but will protect it from the gardner.

Tell us about your loop. I've been trying to decide which type of LF antenna to use.

/Dave

232. Re: It's getting close to LF / VLF season; antenna work time is NOW!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-09-20 21:25:01 UTC
From: ve7cyb
Topic: 225 Message: 232

Re: Sacrafisial low noise MP-102 Preamp FET ... The standard way
of protection in a LORAN C receiver preamp is to use a NE-2
neon lamp. They have an ionization potential in the mid-twenty
volts, have almost no capacitance and no insertion noise! Use
a little series gate input resistance so that any destructive current
goes to the lamp and not directly to the FET. Being a voltage
amplifier, the little bit of resistance won't bother performance.

Re: Mutual Resonance in loop winding. An old trick. Use two
or more spreader bars on the cross-arms;
one, just an inch or two below the other.
Winde odd-even turns on alternating bars so that sequential turns
are not shoulder to shoulder. The extra seperation reduces the
inter-turn capacitance.
The old loading coils of the Omega transmitters used a fair number
of step levels on a special coil-form.

Robert

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@...> wrote:
>
> Howdy, Troops!
>
> Right after Labor Day my head always turns to that antenna work I've
> been putting off all summer... gotta go for it NOW before the snow
> flies. So... it's time to reluctantly give up a weekend or two on the
> motorcycle and start measuring and stringing up wire.
>
> This year the LF antenna choices are going to be simple here; I'm
> lucky enough to have enough space for pretty substantial long wires,
> held up by trees. The main BCB / LF / VLF skyhook for this winter is
> going to be a 300' run of #14 copperweld; nothing fancy, just an end
> fed wire. There are other approaches to LF reception I've taken in
> the past, but I always seem to wind up going back to the basics like
> this. Why is that?
>
> Well, I've run E field active whips (102" CB whip with a preamp,
> mounted on a post out in the yard), remotely mounted active whip /
> VLF converter combinations, loops (both horizontal and vertical, both
> indoor and outdoor), base loaded verticals, and even (briefly) a BIG
> version of the K9AY directional loop (not real successful)!
>
> ALL of these critters promised to be THE Trick Setup for VLF, but
> they were all found to be wanting in one way or another.
>
> I've found that any system that powers a remote preamp thru the coax

> is just asking for trouble in the Wisconsin climate. I've never
> gotten the knack of making connectors completely waterproof; sooner
> or later water gets into 'em.
>
> Besides that, a remote preamp in and of itself has other problems.
>
> I'm in a location where I have a LOT of RF floating around from a
> directional AM broadcast array (5 KW) less than a mile away;
> fortunately, the station signs off at sunset. Designing and building
> an intermodulation distortion proof broadband preamp for ANY
> frequency range isn't as easy (or as CHEAP) as it first looks on
> paper.
>
> Beyond that, I get tired of replacing FET front end devices that get
> blown to hell by lightning that's 20 miles away... or by my own ham
> band transmitters! For a while I had to quit using my old Globe King
> 500 on 160 meter AM because I was sure to lose an MPF-102 or two in
> the remote LF preamps every time I tripped the PLATE ON switch! Using
> crossed diode gate protection isn't really a viable approach; because
> of the hot RF fields around here, those nice, nonlinear clipping
> diodes generate even MORE intermod garbage.
>
> Indoor loops have preamps, but not the same problems as outdoor
> preamps. Instead, an indoor loop generally suffers from noise pickup
> problems; your loop is INSIDE of loops of house wiring that's loaded
> with electronic crud and noise. Using an H field (i.e., shielded)
> loop design helps, but it doesn't completely eliminate the noise
> problems... like the Idiot Box sucking in TV atrocities in the
> immediate vicinity; the horizontal sweep and high voltage sections
> radiate nice, nasty signals on 15,734 Hz, plus a TON of powerful
> harmonics.
>
> Besides that, an indoor loop suffers from small signal output because
> of it's small aperture (pickup area). I tend to build indoor loops
> that are BIG (try six feet on a side for one ill fated creation!) to
> make the pickup window area as large as possible... but the space
> problems are obvious, not to mention that any loop of practical (or
> IMpractical!) area isn't that much better at signal pickup than a
> physically small loop.
>
> Using an oversized, ferrite loaded loopstick design helps with the
> mechanical and space problems somewhat, but it's still mechanically
> awkward (my 7 - 25 KHz super loopstick is only about 4" in
> diameter... but it's STILL over 7 feet long!)... and any practical
> indoor loop or loopstick has nowhere near the signal pickup aperture
> of an outdoor long wire.
>
>
> Granted, a low, short horizontal wire (low and short in terms of
> wavelength, that is) is far from an optimal antenna... but in the

> long run I've found it to be the most practical and versatile
> solution for low frequency reception. Hooking it to an indoor tunable
> preselector (NOT a broadband preamp!) beats the problem of lowering
> RF impedance as frequency goes down, and does a whole lot to help the
> intermod problems from big, off frequency signals in the area. In the
> event that you go REALLY low in frequency and the wire's feedpoint
> impedance gets too low even for your preselector to get much out of
> it (unlikely, but possible) it's no great problem to add a loading
> inductor at the input to bring the wire closer to resonance, and
> bring the impedance numbers up.
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> So... based on a lot of years of experience in low frequency
> listening, I'm going back to first principles on antennas this year.
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> and we'll give it a try... but I'm betting that in the end I'll wind
> up going back to the trusty old random wire antenna.
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> One of thesae days I'm gonna live on a mountaintop, and have a
> MONSTER long wire scrung across a valley to another peak! <<GRIN>>
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>
> Now... gotta get back to the math for designing my broadband HF
> antennas for this winter!
>
>
>
> Mr. T., W9LBB
>

233. Re: It's getting close to LF / VLF season; antenna work time is NOW!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-09-20 22:16:36 UTC
From: caladonia5560
Topic: 225 Message: 233

All of the references that I have give the breakdown voltage of the standard NE-2 lamp as approx. 70 volts. That would seem to give very little protection to a MPF102 which is rated at a maximum of 25 volts between any two terminals.

Les Layton
Las Vegas, NV

--- In lowfrequency@...m, "ve7cyb" <marinetek@...> wrote:
>
> Re: Sacrafisial low noise MP-102 Preamp FET ... The standard way
> of protection in a LORAN C receiver preamp is to use a NE-2
> neon lamp. They have an ionization potential in the mid-twenty
> volts, have almost no capacitance and no insertion noise! Use
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> amplifier, the little bit of resistance won't bother performance.
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> inter-turn capacitance.
> The old loading coils of the Omega transmitters used a fair number
> of step levels on a special coil-form.
>
> Robert
>
> --- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@> wrote:
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> > been putting off all summer... gotta go for it NOW before the snow
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> >
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> > Mr. T., W9LBB
> >
>

234. Re: It's getting close to LF / VLF season; antenna work time is NOW!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-09-23 23:27:23 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 225 Message: 234

Howdy!

>>> All of the references that I have give the breakdown voltage of the standard NE-2 lamp as approx. 70 volts. That would seem to give very little protection to a MPF102 which is rated at a maximum of 25 volts between any two terminals.<<<

True... but most FET broadband antenna preamp designs I've seen usually use a very high Z resistive voltage divider between the antenna and gate (several megohms in series between whip and gate, and a megohm or two from gate to ground), as a means of dealing with the ridiculously high VLF feedpoint impedance at the base of a 1 or 2 meter long whip! The neon bulb usually goes from the whip to ground, in parallel with the divider.

Besides voltage division, the multimegohm provides significant current limiting headed into the gate, further protecting it.

235. Re: INSANE used receiver prices!!!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-09-24 00:09:35 UTC
From: Mr Gray
Topic: 220 Message: 235

Hi,

I havnt seen a collins for awhile but hey some of the tube types were really reliable and stable; it could be an electromagnetic pulse scare somewhere; when the internet is down us hams will be back on our old gear tryin to make sense of things again lol.

That reminds me I need to work on my code again; I avg about 15-18 wpm.

mr gray

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@...> wrote:
>
> Been looking at communications receivers on EBAY lately? Especially
> the VLF variety?
>
> Are you as shocked as I am???
>
> A couple of weeks ago a sort of scarce VLF receiver popped up, an
old
> Hammarlund SP-600VLF. I've got one here; tubes, double conversion,
> 10 - 600 KHz, circa 1950s. Not a bad receiver at all, but there's
> MUCH better performers out there these days. Just out of curiosity
I
> kept it on my WATCH list.
>
> Bidding got it to about $935.00 ... but it never hit the seller's
> fixed reserve figure!!! IMHO the realistic value of the radio is
> found by dividing that figure by 3 or 4.
>
> The same receiver was relisted this week, and it sold.
>
> Would you believe $1,700.00 ??? That's more than it cost NEW.
>
>
> A couple of weeks ago, my all time favorite receiver, a Racal RA-
> 1772, hit EBAY. These are professional grade receivers for military
> and maritime service that tune 15 - 30,000 KHz; solid state (i.e.,
> weighs about HALF what the Hammarlund does!), late 1970's design
and
> construction. On LF and VLF they're EXCELLENT performers. If you
get
> a military rig that has the AFC and ISB options installed (most of
> them have it) the beast does a quite good job of synchronous
> detection of AM signals. They make EXCELLENT ham and SWL receivers,

> and do a great job in hunting digital modes in utility DXing. I've
> owned a LOT of receivers over the last 50 years (better than 200),
> and the RA-1772 is my ALL TIME FAVORITE of the bunch.
>
> I now have THREE of them (if that's not an endorsement, I don't
know
> what IS), all purchased off of EBAY over the last 4 years. My most
> expensive one (the first) was $700, plus the cost of importation
from
> England... so figure about $850.00 all told. The next two were
both
> already in the US, and including shipping they both came in under
> $700.00 . All three radios were in what I would describe as very
good
> shape, completely operational and not battered.
>
> The RA-1772 that came up on EBAY in the last couple of weeks was an
> ex military radio (Royal Navy or Royal Air Force nomenclature plate
> and MOD tag attached to the front panel). It was SLIGHTLY unusual;
it
> included the seldom seen built in RTTY decoder (somewhat useless,
> really; limited in shifts and speeds and keying a 100 VDC
> teletypewriter loop circuit... so drag out that trusty Teletype
> Corporation Model 15 printer you've been trying to give away at
> hamfests for the last 10 years!). Condition looked pretty good
> overall.
>
> Would you believe bidders were trampling each other to death to pay
> over $1800.00 for the radio???
>
>
> What's going on out there? Have people suddenly lost thier senses
> when it comes to radio gear?
>
> People... THIS IS JUST A HOBBY! IT'S NOT A LIFE OR DEATH MATTER!
>
> Before the Racals, I used to be addicted to Collins R-390s and R-
> 390As; at one time I had 4 of them watching hot digital mode
> frequencies 24/7. A few years ago I got tired of trying to keep
them
> supplied with decent tubes, and with some twinges of regret I took
> them out to hamfests to give them new homes, along with Hammarlund
SP-
> 600s of various versions.
>
> None of the radios were fancy; they were just hard working ex
> military Cold Warriors with scratches and dings. I tagged them at
> about $250.00 each. At a 2 day hamfest near Chicago they all
went...
> and I felt lucky that I didn't lose any money on them. They were

> replaced by more modern designs that weigh a LOT less, and which
> perform a hell of a lot better.
>
> Check out what R-390s are fetching on EBAY... $500.00 to $1,200 a
> pop seems to be typical.
>
> I look at the SP-600VLF and R-389 (LF/VLF version of the R-390)
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> are still in the shack and wonder if I should finally let go of
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> on EBAY.
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> I'm throughly convinced that EBAY is now inhabited by folks with
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> more money than brains. You don't see very many communications
> receivers on the hamfest circuit anymore; it's too profitable to
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> some looney on EBAY that'll buy ANY chunk of junk sight unseen.
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>
> Mr. T., W9LBB
>

236. Re: [lowfrequency] Re: INSANE used receiver prices!!!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-09-26 01:05:10 UTC
From: dennis
Topic: 220 Message: 236

On Sunday 23 September 2007 19:09, Mr Gray wrote:
Good evening.

Could it be that these receivers have been undervalued for quite some time.
Its like some concert tickets. The market will pay what the market thinks
they are worth.

Dennis

> Hi,
>
> I havnt seen a collins for awhile but hey some of the tube types were
> really reliable and stable; it could be an electromagnetic pulse
> scare somewhere; when the internet is down us hams will be back on
> our old gear tryin to make sense of things again lol.
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> > Been looking at communications receivers on EBAY lately? Especially
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> > Are you as shocked as I am???
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> > Hammarlund SP-600VLF. I've got one here; tubes, double conversion,
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> > MUCH better performers out there these days. Just out of curiosity
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> > Mr. T., W9LBB

237. High Q antenna loading coils, yet wider bandwidth!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-09-28 23:54:42 UTC
From: ve7cyb
Topic: 237 Message: 237

I was reading an article on mobile 80M or 160M antenna design
and it was recounting an old idea to make the tuning not so
critical. (Overtaken with automatic antenna tunners and
motorized "screwdriver" coils)
It retained the low losses with the high Q coils, but instead
of making the bandwidth narrow, the design made it wider.
The concept was to use a 1/4 wave shorted wave coax stub and a
network to match impedance (rather than a coil shunt tap point).
At a 1/4 wave, the short was reflected to look capacitive.
The change in tuning frequency changed wavelength such
that the offered capacitance operated inversely to shift
the network, increasing the useful antenna bandwidth.

Has anyone heard of such a system?
Could this be useful at VLF where bandwidths are VERY narrow?
Sounds like a physically very long stub at VLF.

Robert, VE7CYB

238. band

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-11-10 18:58:27 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 238 Message: 238

VLF was wide open this morning here in Penna.
210 khz to 518 khz

_____
Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
http://mail.yahoo.com

239. Hellschreiber

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-12-26 22:36:15 UTC
From: Herbert Holtje
Topic: 239 Message: 239

Hello. I'm new to vlf, although I have been licensed and active since 1958. From what I've read so far, it seems that Feld Hell at a very slow baud rate might be an excellent mode to use at VLF. Is this done, or have I not read enough so far to understand why this might not be practical?

Bert
W2TQS

240. Eton E1 down low

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-12-30 14:41:59 UTC
From: Lee H. Badman
Topic: 240 Message: 240

Circuit City (online only) has been running an incredible deal on the Eton E1, at $225 (usually $500). I treated myself to one for Christmas, and must say that this unit performs wonderfully down low on both my cheezy random-wire as well as newly constructed Snake antenna strung out on the ground out back. Great filtering, synchronous AM on demand, and passband tuning- the combination along with a great processor makes for a lot of fun chasing NDBs.

Regards and Happy New Year-

Lee
KC2IYK

241. Re: Eton E1 down low

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2007-12-31 16:32:06 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 240 Message: 241

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Lee H. Badman" <lbadman@...>
wrote:
>
> Circuit City (online only) has been running an incredible deal on
the
> Eton E1, at $225 (usually $500). I treated myself to one for
> Christmas, and must say that this unit performs wonderfully down low
> on both my cheezy random-wire as well as newly constructed Snake
> antenna strung out on the ground out back. Great filtering,
> synchronous AM on demand, and passband tuning- the combination along
> with a great processor makes for a lot of fun chasing NDBs.
>
> Regards and Happy New Year-
>
> Lee
> KC2IYK
>

Howdy, Lee!

Tho not an LF / VLF hunk of gear, I did something similar here;
treated myself to a Cambridge Sound Works 820HD radio to do some
spelunking into the world of HD Radio. Been dealing with HD at work,
so it was just time to get a radio of my own.

On FM, this HD technology is pretty neat, and the 820HD is a decent
piece of hardware.

On AM tho, this dog just ain't gonna hunt. Period.

I've got 3 local stations running AM IBOC here. All three
transmitters are within 15 miles, and running 5 to 10 KW.

I can get IBOC HD to lock and start buffering data on ONE of them.

The other two are directionals, and I'm betting that group delay in
the directional antenna arrays is screwing up the IBOC digital data.
On both stations the HD Lock is intermittent as hell. If you DO
buffer some data, the radio toggles back and forth between IBOC and
analog when the buffer empties out.

At nightfall when all three stations reduce power, it's Good Night
Irene to HD radio. On the good one, they drop from 5000 watts to 265
watts, and in two more steps go to 56 watts. HD Radio, it seems, is
EXTREMELY signal strength sensitive.

AM BCB DXing with HD? Forget it... not a chance!

When you throw in the fact that IBOC HD is ALSO making mincemeat of the channels on either side of it (the AM signal is essentially 30 KHz wide!), IMHO the FCC ought to BAN the IBOC system from AM. It causes more problems than it helps.

Mr. T., W9LBB

242. LYQ

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-03-01 11:31:33 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 242 Message: 242

Does anyone know where this beacon is from.
I heard LYQ on or near 528 khz I was in LSB mode
The AM stations on 520 were very strong.

_____
Never miss a thing. Make Yahoo your home page.
http://www.yahoo.com/r/hs

243. Re: [lowfrequency] LYQ

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-03-01 14:40:00 UTC
From: Mike WE0H
Topic: 242 Message: 243

KHz A-Z ID LSB USB Sec Fmt 'Name' and Location S/P
ITU GSQ PWR Notes Heard In (Click for Map - *bold* = daytime
logging) Logs Last Heard
529 **LYQ** <javascript:signal_info("9312")> 1001 ~1020 8.168 NDB
Morristown *TN*
<http://www.classaxe.com/dx/ndb/rna/index.php?mode=state_map&type_DGPS=1&type_HAMBCN=1&type_NAVTEX=1&type_NDB=1&type_TIME=1&type_OTHER=1&simple=1&SP=TN&ID=9312>
USA EM86he <javascript:popup_map("9312","36.1875","-83.375")> 100
20070909 reported by Dave Tomasko AZ BC CA FL IL MD MN NC NY OH OR TX
<javascript:void signal_map_na(9312)> *15*
<javascript:signal_log("9312")> 2007-12-14

Go here for the website to find this an dother NDB's
http://www.classaxe.com/dx/ndb/rna/index.php

Mike
WE0H

Dennis Williard wrote:
>
> Does anyone know where this beacon is from.
> I heard LYQ on or near 528 khz I was in LSB mode
> The AM stations on 520 were very strong.
>

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

244. Re: [lowfrequency] LYQ

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-03-01 23:47:19 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 242 Message: 244

Thanks Mike this was my 1st time hearing due to the
AM stations

--- Mike WE0H <we0h@...> wrote:

> KHz A-Z ID LSB USB Sec Fmt 'Name' and
> Location S/P
> ITU GSQ PWR Notes Heard In (Click for Map -
> *bold* = daytime
> logging) Logs Last Heard
> 529 **LYQ** <javascript:signal_info("9312")> 1001
> ~1020 8.168 NDB
> Morristown *TN*
>
<http://www.classaxe.com/dx/ndb/rna/index.php?mode=state_map&type_DGPS=1&type_HAMBCN=1&type_NAVTEX=1&type_NDB=1&type_TIME=1&type_OTHER=1&simple=1&SP=TN&ID=9312>
>
> USA EM86he
> <javascript:popup_map("9312","36.1875","-83.375")>
> 100
> 20070909 reported by Dave Tomasko AZ BC CA FL IL MD
> MN NC NY OH OR TX
> <javascript:void signal_map_na(9312)> *15*
> <javascript:signal_log("9312")> 2007-12-14
>
>
>
> Go here for the website to find this an dother NDB's
> http://www.classaxe.com/dx/ndb/rna/index.php
>
> Mike
> WE0H
>
>
> Dennis Williard wrote:
> >
> > Does anyone know where this beacon is from.
> > I heard LYQ on or near 528 khz I was in LSB mode
> > The AM stations on 520 were very strong.
> >
>
>
>
> [Non-text portions of this message have been
> removed]
>

>

Be a better friend, newshound, and
know-it-all with Yahoo! Mobile. Try it now.
http://mobile.yahoo.com/;_ylt=Ahu06i62sR8HDtDypao8Wcj9tAcJ

245. Re: LYQ

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-03-02 14:55:35 UTC
From: Dave
Topic: 242 Message: 245

More info... from rec.radio.shortwave

Greetings:

Please tune your radio to 529 KHZ to hear our NDB beacon LYQ you
will hear the Weather and the Morse code. You should be able to hear
LYQ on your car radio tuned to AM 530 Please give it a try and
post your reception report right here!!

If you want to see pictures of LYQ beacon please visit our web page at
www.wwrb.org view the photo gallery!

LYQ is right next to our New Runway located right here at WWRB
shortwave station

246. RE: [lowfrequency] Re: LYQ

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-03-02 20:41:48 UTC
From: Robert W. Strohmeyer
Topic: 242 Message: 246

Good work.

73 de Stro,

KO4FR

_____

From: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com [mailto:lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Dave
Sent: Sunday, March 02, 2008 9:56 AM
To: Lowfrequency@...
Subject: [lowfrequency] Re: LYQ

More info... from rec.radio.shortwave

Greetings:

Please tune your radio to 529 KHZ to hear our NDB beacon LYQ you will hear the Weather and the Morse code. You should be able to hear LYQ on your car radio tuned to AM 530 Please give it a try and post your reception report right here!!

If you want to see pictures of LYQ beacon please visit our web page at www.wwrb.org view the photo gallery!

LYQ is right next to our New Runway located right here at WWRB shortwave station

_____ NOD32 2913 (20080301) Information _____

This message was checked by NOD32 antivirus system.
http://www.eset.com

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

247. spectrum

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-06-07 16:21:01 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 247 Message: 247

I just install a newer version of spectrum how ever in the ham radio fast cw reader when I open it I get for graphs and I only want one. In the older version I had it came up with one graph any ideals

248. Re: spectrum

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-06-08 18:31:24 UTC
From: Mr Gray
Topic: 247 Message: 248

Hi !

I will be sure to check it out; I am so busy with crap I dont want to
do anything any more...

I am slowly getting back into my electronics hobby again.

Thanks for the update!

Blake

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, Dennis Williard <ka3bvj@...> wrote:
>
> I just install a newer version of spectrum how ever in the ham radio
fast cw reader when I open it I get for graphs and I only want one. In
the older version I had it came up with one graph any ideals
>

249. New Central New York Radio Group

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-08-04 00:29:08 UTC
From: Lee H. Badman
Topic: 249 Message: 249

A new radio-oriented group in Central New York:

Radio Enthusiasts of Central New York:

http://groups.google.com/group/RECNY

-Lee

250. 25 Hz

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-10-25 10:13:31 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 250 Message: 250

Just wondering if I am hearing Russian signals..Time is 10:00 gmt
sounds like a pulse of some kind. very strong! when I take the long wire off it goes away..I am using a HP Selective level meter 3586C with it set with the band with at 400 hz

251. Re: VLF Superhet Receivers

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-11-20 03:39:15 UTC
From: geo_k02
Topic: 159 Message: 251

I own an RCA DZ-2 receiver.

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Tom Adams" <w9lbb@...> wrote:
>
> --- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "vlfexperimenter"
> <vlfexperimenter@> wrote:
> >
> > Do any of our members have vacuum tube superhetrodyne VLF
> receivers ???
> > Besides power considerations (in the power supply)and immunity to
> > static-lightnig stikes what are the pro & cons of solid state vs.
> > the older tube based technology when it comes to operating in the
> 10
> > to 500 kHz. range. Are vacuum tube receivers better? any thoughts
> and
> > comments from our members are most welcome.
> >
>
>
> Hi!
>
> I have several tube receivers (Magnavox WRR-3/R-1134, Hammarlund SP-
> 600VLF, and Collins R-389), and experience with a number of others,
> mostly WW2 vintage Navy surplus rigs (usually consisting of a couple
> of
> RF stages, a regenerative detector, and an audio stage or two) of
> various types.
>
> I can't really say they're any better than modern solid state gear;
> in fact, IMHO in many cases the opposite is usually the case.
>
> The tube gear is much more difficult to find for sale (it took over
> 20 years to locate my R-389 and SP-600). Tube stuff is usually VERY
> heavy; tho it doesn't look it, the WRR-3 weighs in at over 90 pounds,
> about the same as an R-389; I used to joke that since the radio was
> used on submarines, it was a BIG reason they could crash dive so fast!
>
> In terms of performance... a good tube receiver can do an excellent
> job, but I personally prefer the modern solid state rigs; I have
> gotten used to digital readout dials, super frequency stability thru
> the use of synthesizers, and a lot of versatility re. IF bandwidths,
> etc. MOST of the tube rigs have a slight edge over solid state rigs
> in terms of front end selectivity (i.e., immunity to intermod and
> overload from BCB signals); some of the military rigs don't because
> they were designed to work with high impedance antennas (mostly the

> rigs that were designed for aircraft), and they use capacitor coupling
> to the input coils rather than link coupling. These LF rigs (notably
> BC-348 and the "Command Sets") are prone to horrible noise from AC
> power line ground loops. In one Command Set I had, I tore apart the
> antenna coil and added a link coil for coupling to the antenna rather
> than using the capacitor coupling; the improvement in the front end's
> performance was dramatic and immediate.
>
> Everything else being equal, my impression is that solid state rigs
> have a SLIGHT edge on front end noise figure, but not a huge one...
> not enough to be a "make or break" factor.
>
> Modern receiver have a VERY wide frequency coverage range, and have
> just about put my older tube radios out of a job; my Racals will give
> excellent performance down to 10 KHz or lower.
>
> As far as front end damage from static is concerned, a tube radio IS
> clearly the way to go; it's a bunch more bulletproof. However, by
> using common sense measures (disconnecting antennas when not in use,
> good quality transient protection devices [meaning Polyphazer],
> isolation of the receivers from the AC power line with a good quality
> isolation transformer), I've not yet had a blown front end device on
> my solid state pets.
>
> Hope this answers your questions.
>
>
> Tom, W9LBB
>
>
> As far as front end damage
>

252. beacons

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-11-23 12:29:07 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 252 Message: 252

The band was open this morning here in central Penna.
RPB 414 Republican,Ks PPA 450 Puerto Plata,Dominican Republic

253. Re: [lowfrequency] beacons

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-11-26 00:03:26 UTC
From: lbadman@twcny.rr.com
Topic: 252 Message: 253

Hi Dennis-

I logged two from Dominican Republic as well within the last two weeks. Last night, north of you from Central NY, hear POH out of Iowa strong.

Good stuff!

Lee
---- Dennis Williard <ka3bvj@...> wrote:
> The band was open this morning here in central Penna.
> RPB 414 Republican,Ks PPA 450 Puerto Plata,Dominican Republic
>
>
>
>

254. Re: [lowfrequency] beacons

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-11-26 01:07:42 UTC
From: Mark McCarthy
Topic: 252 Message: 254

Hi Lee,

Was 425-PCA the other from the Dominican Republic?

Mark, KE7MSU
----- Original Message -----
From: lbadman@...
To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Cc: Dennis Williard
Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2008 4:03 PM
Subject: Re: [lowfrequency] beacons

Hi Dennis-

I logged two from Dominican Republic as well within the last two weeks. Last night, north of you from Central NY, hear POH out of Iowa strong.

Good stuff!

Lee
---- Dennis Williard <ka3bvj@...> wrote:
> The band was open this morning here in central Penna.
> RPB 414 Republican,Ks PPA 450 Puerto Plata,Dominican Republic
>
>
>
>

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

255. Re: [lowfrequency] beacons

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-11-26 02:28:44 UTC
From: lbadman@twcny.rr.com
Topic: 252 Message: 255

Yep- PCA... Punta Cana.

Here's where I track mine: http://web.syr.edu/~lhbadman/ndb.html

-Lee

---- Mark McCarthy <mark.mccarthy@...> wrote:
> Hi Lee,
>
> Was 425-PCA the other from the Dominican Republic?
>
> Mark, KE7MSU
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: lbadman@...
> To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
> Cc: Dennis Williard
> Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2008 4:03 PM
> Subject: Re: [lowfrequency] beacons
>
>
> Hi Dennis-
>
> I logged two from Dominican Republic as well within the last two weeks. Last night, north of you from Central NY, hear POH out of Iowa strong.
>
> Good stuff!
>
> Lee
> ---- Dennis Williard <ka3bvj@...> wrote:
> > The band was open this morning here in central Penna.
> > RPB 414 Republican,Ks PPA 450 Puerto Plata,Dominican Republic
> >
> >
> >
> >
>
>
>
>
>
> [Non-text portions of this message have been removed]
>

256. Re: [lowfrequency] beacons

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-11-26 10:49:33 UTC
From: Dennis Williard
Topic: 252 Message: 256

last weekend I also heard WE2XGR/1 not sure where that is at

--- On Tue, 11/25/08, lbadman@... <lbadman@...> wrote:
From: lbadman@... <lbadman@...>
Subject: Re: [lowfrequency] beacons
To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Cc: "Mark McCarthy" <mark.mccarthy@comcast.net>
Date: Tuesday, November 25, 2008, 9:28 PM

Yep- PCA... Punta Cana.

Here's where I track mine: http://web.syr. edu/~lhbadman/ ndb.html

-Lee

---- Mark McCarthy <mark.mccarthy@ comcast.net> wrote:

> Hi Lee,

>

> Was 425-PCA the other from the Dominican Republic?

>

> Mark, KE7MSU

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: lbadman@twcny. rr.com

> To: lowfrequency@ yahoogroups. com

> Cc: Dennis Williard

> Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2008 4:03 PM

> Subject: Re: [lowfrequency] beacons

>

>

> Hi Dennis-

>

> I logged two from Dominican Republic as well within the last two weeks. Last night, north of you from Central NY, hear POH out of Iowa strong.

>

> Good stuff!

>

> Lee

> ---- Dennis Williard <ka3bvj@yahoo. com> wrote:

> > The band was open this morning here in central Penna.

> > RPB 414 Republican,Ks PPA 450 Puerto Plata,Dominican Republic

> >

> >

> >

> >

>

>

>

>

>

> [Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

>

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

257. Unknown signal

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-11-28 20:49:22 UTC
From: Allen
Topic: 257 Message: 257

Hi everyone hope you can help me out on this one, but while scanning through the LW band came across 311khz in am it sounds like a whistle but in USB it sounds to me like a data stream. any idea what it may be. I have uploaded a sound file and a screen shot of it. my location is here in the south eastern United States.

Allen

258. New file uploaded to lowfrequency

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-11-28 20:51:10 UTC
From: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 258 Message: 258

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the lowfrequency
group.

File : /311khz/311khz.wav
Uploaded by : fltsatcom <fltsatcom@...>
Description : Audio file on 311khz in USB

You can access this file at the URL:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lowfrequency/files/311khz/311khz.wav

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
http://help.yahoo.com/l/us/yahoo/groups/original/members/web/index.htmlfiles

Regards,

fltsatcom <fltsatcom@...>

259. Re: [lowfrequency] Unknown signal

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-11-28 21:01:48 UTC
From: Mark McCarthy
Topic: 257 Message: 259

Hi Allen,

Maybe the DGPS signal from Tampa on 312?
www.dxinfocentre.com/dgps.htm

Mark, KE7MSU

----- Original Message -----
From: Allen
To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, November 28, 2008 12:49 PM
Subject: [lowfrequency] Unknown signal

Hi everyone hope you can help me out on this one, but while scanning through the LW band came across 311khz in am it sounds like a whistle but in USB it sounds to me like a data stream. any idea what it may be. I have uploaded a sound file and a screen shot of it. my location is here in the south eastern United States.

Allen

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

260. New file uploaded to lowfrequency

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-11-28 20:50:27 UTC
From: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 258 Message: 260

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the lowfrequency
group.

File : /311khz/311khz.jpg
Uploaded by : fltsatcom <fltsatcom@...>
Description : Screen shot of 311khz

You can access this file at the URL:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lowfrequency/files/311khz/311khz.jpg

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
http://help.yahoo.com/l/us/yahoo/groups/original/members/web/index.htmlfiles

Regards,

fltsatcom <fltsatcom@...>

261. Re: [lowfrequency] Unknown signal

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-11-29 01:08:27 UTC
From: Allen Woodruff
Topic: 257 Message: 261

Hi Mark, thanks for your reply the signal here in Florida was very strong getting 10 on the s-meter. very interesting site.

Thanks, Allen

----- Original Message -----
From: Mark McCarthy
To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, November 28, 2008 4:01 PM
Subject: Re: [lowfrequency] Unknown signal

Hi Allen,

Maybe the DGPS signal from Tampa on 312?
www.dxinfocentre.com/dgps.htm

Mark, KE7MSU

----- Original Message -----
From: Allen
To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, November 28, 2008 12:49 PM
Subject: [lowfrequency] Unknown signal

Hi everyone hope you can help me out on this one, but while scanning through the LW band came across 311khz in am it sounds like a whistle but in USB it sounds to me like a data stream. any idea what it may be. I have uploaded a sound file and a screen shot of it. my location is here in the south eastern United States.

Allen

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

262. Re: [lowfrequency] beacons

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-11-29 18:15:23 UTC
From: Mike-WE0H
Topic: 252 Message: 262

www.500kc.com

There are quite a few 600 meter stations on the air every day & night.
More at night though.

Mike
WE0H
WD2XSH/16

Dennis Williard wrote:
>
> last weekend I also heard WE2XGR/1 not sure where that is at
>

263. new map

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-12-21 14:20:22 UTC
From: ka3bvj
Topic: 263 Message: 263

I just uploaded my VLF rec. may to the group area

264. Nieve Question on Tuning in proximity to 500KHz and resultant Harmonic Tones

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-12-24 14:59:50 UTC
From: sernstfortin
Topic: 264 Message: 264

Hello. I'm new to the group. I'm in the process of building a loop antenna to receive signals below 500KHz. I'm currently using a 50ft end-fed random wire antenna which has been useful IDing a number of NDBs, but I know I need something directional and better suited to the low band.

My question is this: when I go to 500KHz LSB, and I march up 100Hz at a time on my Kenwood TS-440S, while viewing a STFT in SpecLab, why do I see a prominent tone starting at 200Hz (when tuned to 500.2KHz), stepping by 100Hz up through 502.9KHz? Actually, when I march by 10Hz, I see the tone moving up by 10Hz steps.

Does this indicate a problem with the radio's tuner / filter? Is it possible this is an artifact of the VFO radiating into the Audio out that is being sampled by a USB Audio card?

Thanks for any explaination which helps my understanding as I want to address this and rectify if practical.

265. Re: Nieve Question on Tuning in proximity to 500KHz and resultant Harmonic Tones

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2008-12-24 18:48:45 UTC
From: Tom Adams
Topic: 264 Message: 265

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "sernstfortin" <jeflawit@...>
wrote:
>
> Hello. I'm new to the group. I'm in the process of building a loop
> antenna to receive signals below 500KHz. I'm currently using a 50ft
end-
> fed random wire antenna which has been useful IDing a number of
NDBs,
> but I know I need something directional and better suited to the
low
> band.
>
> My question is this: when I go to 500KHz LSB, and I march up 100Hz
at a
> time on my Kenwood TS-440S, while viewing a STFT in SpecLab, why do
I
> see a prominent tone starting at 200Hz (when tuned to 500.2KHz),
> stepping by 100Hz up through 502.9KHz? Actually, when I march by
10Hz,
> I see the tone moving up by 10Hz steps.
>
> Does this indicate a problem with the radio's tuner / filter? Is it
> possible this is an artifact of the VFO radiating into the Audio
out
> that is being sampled by a USB Audio card?
>
> Thanks for any explaination which helps my understanding as I want
to
> address this and rectify if practical.
>

Greetings!

Re. the signal you're seeing:

That one sounds to me like it's dead on 500 KHz, and best guess is
that it's a trash signal leaking thru the shielding from the radio's
own synthesizer; even steps of 100 and 500 KHz are prime candidate
frequencies for that sort of thing, along with even, whole MHz steps.

One way to find out for sure... disconnect the antenna and see if
it's still there. If it is, then it's certainly a spurious carrier
that's being internally generated.

If it's not there with no antenna, then the signal is real and it's coming in from the outside world. THAT'S when the fun starts!

Is it there constantly, or does it disappear at some times of the day (usually daytime). If it disappears during daylight hours, that means it's getting to you by ionospheric reflection (skip).

If it's there constantly... the source is most likely trash radiated by a microprocessor somewhere, and that could be in ANY household appliance! It could be anywhere within a few hundred yards.

Re. loops... that's an ongoing project of mine, and I have one on the bench right now.

I presonally prefer shielded loops, and my favored construction method is copper plumbing pipe arranged in an octagon with 45 degree elbows, sweat soldered together with a butane torch.

One one side a gap is left for attaching the loop shield (via plastic plumbing and conduit fittings) to a plastic conduit junction box, which provides the mandatory electrical gap in the shield, and a place to put preamplifiers, resonating capacitors, etc.

Once the shield is assembled I pull a length of multiconductor cable into the pipe (the one I'm working with now has a hunk of 8 conductor rotator cable in it), and connect the conductors together in the junction box to form a coil.

The construction method works VERY WELL, and is quite sturdy mechanically. I usually connect ONE end of the copper pipe shield to ground, NEVER BOTH.

If both ends of the shield pipe are grounded, the shield acts like a shorted coil turn and the antenna's perfurmance really sucks! <<grin>>

Good Luck,

Mr. T. / Gavno the Ugly
W9LBB

266. My Icom IC-R75 is now on e-bay

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-01-14 01:42:59 UTC
From: Al
Topic: 266 Message: 266

Brand : ICOM

I never thought I would put this up on e-bay...but here goes...the pinnacle of my radio collection:

I simply don't use my R-75 anymore, and I haven't in a long time. So, I'm in the process of listing it on e-bay. My ID is Radioseller1. It has some of the BEST filters installed, the radio has been professionally modified for excellent LW sensitivity, The Icom power supply has been modified with capacitors for very low noise performance. It has two, high end CW filters installed and is basically a really serious LW/NDB DXing machine! PLEASE look at pics closely for details. Shortly after purchase, I had this radio sent to a Pro shop to do the LW mod. This makes it very sensitive at the Longwave range. This receiver is able to DX longwave stations VERY nicely! The winner of this auction will be pleasantly surprised at it's LW performance. You would have to spend multiple thousands of dollars to get performance like this.
Kept in new condition, in a smoke-free home. Treated with kid gloves, looks like it was just pulled out of the orig. box (which is also included). User manuals, service manual incl.
This radio has the Inrad #122 high-quality filter installed!

267. Re: [lowfrequency] My Icom IC-R75 is now on e-bay

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-01-14 02:44:15 UTC
From: lbadman@twcny.rr.com
Topic: 266 Message: 267

OK, you big tease... for those of us who refuse to do business on eBay- can you give a price?

Thanks-

Lee
KI2K
---- Al <ndbdxr@...> wrote:
>
>
> Brand : ICOM
>
> I never thought I would put this up on e-bay...but here goes...the
> pinnacle of my radio collection:
>
> I simply don't use my R-75 anymore, and I haven't in a long time. So,
> I'm in the process of listing it on e-bay. My ID is Radioseller1.
> It has some of the BEST filters installed, the radio has been
> professionally modified for excellent LW sensitivity, The Icom power
> supply has been modified with capacitors for very low noise
> performance. It has two, high end CW filters installed and is
> basically a really serious LW/NDB DXing machine! PLEASE look at pics
> closely for details. Shortly after purchase, I had this radio sent to
> a Pro shop to do the LW mod. This makes it very sensitive at the
> Longwave range. This receiver is able to DX longwave stations VERY
> nicely! The winner of this auction will be pleasantly surprised at
> it's LW performance. You would have to spend multiple thousands of
> dollars to get performance like this.
> Kept in new condition, in a smoke-free home. Treated with kid gloves,
> looks like it was just pulled out of the orig. box (which is also
> included). User manuals, service manual incl.
> This radio has the Inrad #122 high-quality filter installed!
>
>
>
>
>

268. Hello Everyone, I'm new here, and I don't eBay either.

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-02-11 17:39:49 UTC
From: Bill
Topic: 268 Message: 268

Is anyone interested in a Yaesu VR-5000?

269. LW QSL CARDS RECEIVED

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-02-15 02:15:16 UTC
From: Bob Combs
Topic: 269 Message: 269

Here are the LW QSL cards/ letters received so far this year:

DWH -521 - HOUSTON, TEXAS
GV - 201 - GREENVILLE, TEXAS
OF - 510 - NORFOLK, NEBRASKA

FRANCE INTER ALLOUIS TIME STATION - 162 KHZ - EMAIL VERIE AFTER FOLLOW UP

Not a lot, but a bunch still out.

Bob C.
New Mexico

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

270. Great conditions last night/this morning

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-02-16 17:28:24 UTC
From: Bob Combs
Topic: 270 Message: 270

After rewiring my receivers/antenna wire farm behind the radio, I turning on the radio at 10PM mountain and could not beleive my ears! The band was S1 noise level and everything in the bleeding coutry (and out) was coming it. Logged a bunch of new beacons! Kept listening till 2 AM when my dogs drug me off to bed (they were tired of the noises). Now to type reports .. that is going to take a while.

Just out of curiosity, how many of you on the group try for QSL's?

I print my own (used to get them printed - but became cheap in my old age). I sent out a preprinted postal card with the data on it and request a signature and for them to drop it in the mails to return it. Canada I enclose a SASE for their use. Overseas I send Green Stamps (US $$).

What do the rest of this crowd do?

If anyone interested I can post my ,og from last night, otherwise I won't.

Bob C
New Mexicio

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

271. posts?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-02-19 21:52:31 UTC
From: kca6rcswl
Topic: 271 Message: 271

Let's see there are 184 members on this group. Isn't anyone doing any
LW listening?
Bob C.
New Mexico

272. Re: [lowfrequency] posts?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-02-20 02:31:46 UTC
From: lbadman@twcny.rr.com
Topic: 271 Message: 272

Hi Bob-

Two nights ago, on a crystal-clear chilly upstate New York evening, I lugged my Eton E1 down my camp road in the dark to our cottage that sits in a very electrically quiet area, especially this time of year. I strung a simple slinky antenna on the porch, and spent a solid two cold hours logging beacons. I was hearing beacons on top of beacons, and thoroughly enjoyed it until my toes froze. We here a slew of NDBs out of Canada, all over the place, and a lot of New England signals. I have logged Iowa, Texas, and several in the Caribbean from this location...

BTW- I used to live in Clovis, NM!

Lee
KI2K

---- kca6rcswl <kca6rcswl@...> wrote:
> Let's see there are 184 members on this group. Isn't anyone doing any
> LW listening?
> Bob C.
> New Mexico
>

273. Lone QSL

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-02-21 19:00:11 UTC
From: Bob Combs
Topic: 273 Message: 273

Only one lone NDB QSL received in the mail this week:

IQS, Sallisaw, OK 520 KHz

Bob C
New Mexico

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

274. QSL Cards received this week

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-02-28 18:22:36 UTC
From: Bob Combs
Topic: 274 Message: 274

Following LF Beacon QSL cards received:

CNK, Concordia, KS 335 KHz
GGF, Grant, NE 359 KHz
IN, International Falls, MN 353 KHz
OJ, Olathe, KS 526 KHz
OWU, Woodward, OK 329 KHz
PN, Ponca City, OK 515 KHz

Bob Combs
New Mexico
RX: JRC NRD 525
Antenna: LF Engineering 400B active LW

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

275. Another Excellent Upstate NY LW Night

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-03-01 03:54:49 UTC
From: Lee H. Badman
Topic: 275 Message: 275

Excellent clear night, hundreds of beacons. A couple of new catches for me:

338 BV Batesville, AR
373 CQD Erie/Cascade, PA

Last weekend was also very good- heard one out of Ecuador (3000 miles) all on my Eton E1, verified on FT-840. Is getting harder to find new ones from my QTH, but did get several dozen over this winter. Had probably 5 good nights where hundreds can be heard- is almost overwhelming, but a lot of fun.

Lee
KI2K

276. OT One of the original Voices of WWV Passed away

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-03-10 07:22:44 UTC
From: Paul Webster
Topic: 276 Message: 276

FYI

One of the original Voices of WWV Passed away.

Our Thoughts and prayers go out to the Family.

The recorded voice of Time and Frequency Station WWV has fallen silent. This with word that announcer Don Elliot Heald, of Atlanta, Georgia, who gave WWV its human touch passed away on Thursday, February 19th.

Known in the broadcast world as Don Elliot, Heald had distinguished career that ranged from work at Atlanta Georgia's WSB to his automated and internationally heard WWV broadcasts on shortwave. He was also the voice of the Audichron telephone dial-in Time-Weather-Temperature service and of the Protestant Hour radio show for over 40 years. For nearly five decades Heald narrated the televised Christmas Eve service from Atlanta's Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip, where he served as a vestryman, junior warden and senior warden.

Heald was originally from Massachusetts, but came to Atlanta via Lakeland, Florida. He was a graduate of the University of Florida at Gainesville and began his broadcast career after graduation when he accepted a position at WRUF where remained for three years. In Atlanta he spent much of his spare time devoted to public service work with charities and civic clubs.

A Service of Celebration of Don Elliot Heald's life took place on Tuesday February 24th at the Cathedral of St. Philip. He is survived by his wife Sara Farmer Heald of Atlanta, GA; sons and daughters-in- law David and Deborah of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, Tom and Evelyn Heald and Frank and Mary Heald of Atlanta. Don Elliot Heald was 86.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WWV_(radio_station)

73/75 de ka9jwx, Paul Lewis Webster
SKCC #5322
John 3:16
Proud member of the;
ARRL
AARP
NRA
Handihams
LiveFreeUSA
Long:-87.334L (-87*20'3"W)
Lat:41.4967N (41*29'48"N)
EN61HL
Merrillville, Indiana, USA
;-)

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

278. Last Nights Loggins

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-03-15 18:10:04 UTC
From: Bob Combs
Topic: 278 Message: 278

Was great night on the old LW last night. During the 1 hour period between 0500 and 0600 UTC between 300 and 400 KHKz I logged five (5) pages of beacons! That is somewhere around 30 per page so 150 beacons or there abouts. Some foreign ones, mostly Canadians, Mexican, Puerto Rico and a few other islands, not to mention a bunch of new US as well. Now to sort through them and send reports.

Bob Combs
New Mexico

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

279. Auroral kilometric radiation

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-03-21 17:15:55 UTC
From: Bill
Topic: 279 Message: 279

With the ionosphere being left alone by a quiet sun, might it be possible to hear auroral kilometric radiation?

280. [Please pardon the OT] Pirate Station Using my Call...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-03-27 08:01:08 UTC
From: Paul Webster
Topic: 280 Message: 280

Please forgive me the OT post, but this really gets under my skin.

This is a real good argument to fingerprint any & all stations that
you hear on the air & to use APRS DF, so when something like this
happens you can track down the station easier. Several years ago, I
fielded a report from a local ham that another local ham pirated my
call on packet where in he sent out obscene/profane packets to other
local packet stations.

Needless to say, after I heard that, I was thinking obscene/profane thoughts laced w/malice about the op who pirated my call.
Unfortunately, I didn't have a packet station on the air at the time, so I couldn't catch him in the act, so I didn't pursue it.

But critters like that idiot are not above that kind of crap & do
it for as many different reasons as there are critters doing it.

This is also a good argument for good old fashioned FOX HUNTING.

I hear the hams in Chicago, IL that hunt every Saturday night, are very good & very competitive.

This is another reason to monitor different repeaters & simplex freqs.

Again please forgive me for the OT post, but this really gets me going
in the wrong direction & besides, I want to help Steve-N2FT.

Thankyou.
73/75 de ka9jwx, Paul Lewis Webster

SKCC #5322

John 3:16

Proud member of the;

ARRL

AARP

NRA

Handihams

LiveFreeUSA

Long:-87.334L (-87*20'3"W)

Lat:41.4967N (41*29'48"N)

EN61HL

Merrillville, Indiana, USA

;-)

--- On Thu, 3/26/09, Norm <mr_norm_1999@...> wrote:

From: Norm <mr_norm_1999@...>
Subject: [KA9QJGREPEATERS] Pirate Station Using my Call...
To: KA9QJGREPEATERS@yahoogroups.com
Date: Thursday, March 26, 2009, 10:02 AM

Pirate Station Using my Call, N2FT

There are certain things about this that rings bells in my head as
this has happend around this area... as Henry,me (kb9ygd and certain
others that talk on channel 36 am can attest to!
Read Article Below
I couldn't believe my ears during the recent ARRL DX Phone Contest
when I heard another station using my call. Subsequently a number of
stations told me that they had worked me already in the contest. I use
a computerized logging program and none of them were in my log. Earlier
in the year I had several stations comment they had worked me recently
when they had not. Most, but not all, of my activity the last few years
has been in the ARRL and CQ DX contests and a local Northern Virginia 2
Meter repeater. If anyone has worked N2FT please drop me an e-mail at stephenpjohnson@....
I have already notified the FCC and the ARRL contest manager.

Steve Johnson, N2FT
Herndon, VA

_____
Stephen P. Johnson D.Sc., N2FT
2972 Emerald Chase Dr.
Herndon, VA 20171-2321
stephenpjohnson@...

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

281. Re: [lowfrequency] [Please pardon the OT] Pirate Station Using my Call...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-03-27 13:23:09 UTC
From: Zack Widup
Topic: 280 Message: 281

Was this on shortwave or on VHF? It's harder to track down a station pirating your call or whatever on HF than it is on VHF. Witness the Yosemite Sam station back in 2005. If the darned thing didn't keep going for weeks 24 hours a day, no one would've been able to identify what part of the country it was in except maybe by accident. Even then, the FCC didn't seem interested in doing anything about it (hint hint). [We suspected the Yosemite Sam station was some sort of government experiment with some new digital technology. Why they picked 3600 kHz as one of the frequencies to use, we'll never know.]

There was someone who used a voice recorder and then transmitted several stations' voices calling in DX pileups. Had it happen to me once. All of a sudden I heard my own voice calling in the pileup. I was hoping he'd help me work the DX! :-)

73, Zack W9SZ

On 3/27/09, Paul Webster <ka9jwx@...> wrote:
>
> Please forgive me the OT post, but this really gets under my skin.
>
> This is a real good argument to fingerprint any & all stations that
> you hear on the air & to use APRS DF, so when something like this
> happens you can track down the station easier. Several years ago, I
> fielded a report from a local ham that another local ham pirated my
> call on packet where in he sent out obscene/profane packets to other
> local packet stations.
>
> Needless to say, after I heard that, I was thinking obscene/profane
> thoughts laced w/malice about the op who pirated my call.
> Unfortunately, I didn't have a packet station on the air at the time, so I
> couldn't catch him in the act, so I didn't pursue it.
>
> But critters like that idiot are not above that kind of crap & do
> it for as many different reasons as there are critters doing it.
>
> This is also a good argument for good old fashioned FOX HUNTING.
>
> I hear the hams in Chicago, IL that hunt every Saturday night, are very
> good & very competitive.
>
> This is another reason to monitor different repeaters & simplex freqs.
>
> Again please forgive me for the OT post, but this really gets me going
> in the wrong direction & besides, I want to help Steve-N2FT.
>

> Thankyou.
> 73/75 de ka9jwx, Paul Lewis Webster
>
> SKCC #5322
>
> John 3:16
>
> Proud member of the;
>
> ARRL
>
> AARP
>
> NRA
>
> Handihams
>
> LiveFreeUSA
>
> Long:-87.334L (-87*20'3"W)
>
> Lat:41.4967N (41*29'48"N)
>
> EN61HL
>
> Merrillville, Indiana, USA
>
> ;-)
>
> --- On Thu, 3/26/09, Norm <mr_norm_1999@...<mr_norm_1999%40yahoo.com>>
> wrote:
>
> From: Norm <mr_norm_1999@... <mr_norm_1999%40yahoo.com>>
> Subject: [KA9QJGREPEATERS] Pirate Station Using my Call...
> To: KA9QJGREPEATERS@yahoogroups.com <KA9QJGREPEATERS%40yahoogroups.com>
> Date: Thursday, March 26, 2009, 10:02 AM
>
> Pirate Station Using my Call, N2FT
>
> There are certain things about this that rings bells in my head as
> this has happend around this area... as Henry,me (kb9ygd and certain
> others that talk on channel 36 am can attest to!
> Read Article Below
> I couldn't believe my ears during the recent ARRL DX Phone Contest
> when I heard another station using my call. Subsequently a number of
> stations told me that they had worked me already in the contest. I use
> a computerized logging program and none of them were in my log. Earlier
> in the year I had several stations comment they had worked me recently
> when they had not. Most, but not all, of my activity the last few years
> has been in the ARRL and CQ DX contests and a local Northern Virginia 2

> Meter repeater. If anyone has worked N2FT please drop me an e-mail at
> stephenpjohnson@... <stephenpjohnson%40cox.net>. I have already
> notified the FCC and the ARRL contest manager.
>
> Steve Johnson, N2FT
> Herndon, VA
> _____
> Stephen P. Johnson D.Sc., N2FT
> 2972 Emerald Chase Dr.
> Herndon, VA 20171-2321
> stephenpjohnson@... <stephenpjohnson%40cox.net>
>
> [Non-text portions of this message have been removed]
>
>
>

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

283. Re: [lowfrequency] [Please pardon the OT] Pirate Station Using my Call...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-03-27 16:28:18 UTC
From: Facility 406 DM09
Topic: 280 Message: 283

I track signals on HF to within 300' using a 2' whip and a 131 dB attenuator. It's a lot easier than you think, provided you are near the source, within ten to twenty-five thousand square miles makes it a piece of cake.

The Yosemite Sam signal was part of an electronic countermeasures systems test, the location, purpose and users were identified.

Kurt

----- Original Message -----

: Was this on shortwave or on VHF? It's harder to track down a station
: pirating your call or whatever on HF than it is on VHF. Witness the Yosemite
: Sam station back in 2005. If the darned thing didn't keep going for weeks 24
: hours a day, no one would've been able to identify what part of the country
: it was in except maybe by accident. Even then, the FCC didn't seem
: interested in doing anything about it (hint hint). [We suspected the
: Yosemite Sam station was some sort of government experiment with some new
: digital technology. Why they picked 3600 kHz as one of the frequencies to
: use, we'll never know.]

284. Up and Running... Sort of ...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-08-12 03:23:17 UTC
From: Gordon Cooper
Topic: 284 Message: 284

I fired up my North Country VLF converter just before sunset, and found stuff of interest up and down the bands. WWVB was my first catch, I found about six Morse beacons. Of course there is lots of 60 Hz hum, but I expected that.

73,

Gordon Cooper
KE7RYM

285. Re: [lowfrequency] Up and Running... Sort of ...

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-08-12 03:27:48 UTC
From: Brian Ford
Topic: 284 Message: 285

morse beacons, probably NDB's. I listen for those with my converted RS DX 390.

--- On Tue, 8/11/09, Gordon Cooper <kitsaplorax@...> wrote:

From: Gordon Cooper <kitsaplorax@...>
Subject: [lowfrequency] Up and Running... Sort of ...
To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2009, 10:23 PM

I fired up my North Country VLF converter just before sunset, and found stuff of interest up and down the bands. WWVB was my first catch, I found about six Morse beacons. Of course there is lots of 60 Hz hum, but I expected that.

73,

Gordon Cooper
KE7RYM

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

286. Setchell Carlson BC-1206 Beacon Receiver

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-09-04 18:50:04 UTC
From: kugellagers
Topic: 286 Message: 286

Hi all,

New to group and have been lurking for a bit.

I recently got into listening to NDBs after I won a BC-1206 on ebay. it's been pretty fun so far and if I can manage to construct a decent flag/pennant or other loop I hope to pick up some farther off stuff. I'm in the Denver area and have mostly received NDBs in the <200 mi range but have also grabbed the higher powerd AM in Amarillo, TX and High powered GLS in Galveston, TX.

Does anyone know if it is possible to DX European LW BCB stations from Colorado?

Also is it possible to relatively easily modify the BC-1206 to receive from 100-500khz from its 195-425khz stock band range?

Cheers,
John
];')

287. Re: [lowfrequency] Setchell Carlson BC-1206 Beacon Receiver

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-09-05 01:18:50 UTC
From: Dave Brown
Topic: 286 Message: 287

The BC-1206 is a fun little receiver. But it's sensitivity is somewhat lacking for anything other than listening to reasonably strong NDBs. It's selectivity is not great either, it's basically got AM receiver bandwidth which is too wide for serious NDB hunting. Finding the weak ones in under the strong ones requires an SSB filter as a minimum, preferably a CW filter.
I doubt its worth trying to modify the frequency coverage-its probably best to leave it as it is and look around for a more modern general coverage receiver that covers LF and has better selectivity etc.

The key to good NDB hunting is the antenna. There's lots of info on the net for LF and VLF receiving antennas- the PA0RDT minwhip is a good one to start with. Get it up in the clear from nearby buildings and trees and it will perform very well. You might even hear some european BCB stations with it feeding your BC1206!
Cheers
DaveB, NZ

----- Original Message -----
From: "kugellagers" <kugellager@...>
To: <lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 05, 2009 6:50 AM
Subject: [lowfrequency] Setchell Carlson BC-1206 Beacon Receiver

> Hi all,
>
> New to group and have been lurking for a bit.
>
> I recently got into listening to NDBs after I won a BC-1206 on ebay.
> it's been pretty fun so far and if I can manage to construct a
> decent flag/pennant or other loop I hope to pick up some farther off
> stuff. I'm in the Denver area and have mostly received NDBs in the
> <200 mi range but have also grabbed the higher powerd AM in
> Amarillo, TX and High powered GLS in Galveston, TX.
>
> Does anyone know if it is possible to DX European LW BCB stations
> from Colorado?
>
> Also is it possible to relatively easily modify the BC-1206 to
> receive from 100-500khz from its 195-425khz stock band range?
>
> Cheers,
> John
>];')
>

>
>
> ----------
>
> How LOW can your rig GO?Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 8.5.409 / Virus Database: 270.13.76/2345 - Release Date:
09/04/09 05:51:00

288. Re: Setchell Carlson BC-1206 Beacon Receiver

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-11-08 22:21:06 UTC
From: Tom Adams, W9LBB / Gavno the Ugly
Topic: 286 Message: 288

Howdy, Dave!

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Dave Brown" <tractorb@...> wrote:
>
> The BC-1206 is a fun little receiver. But it's sensitivity is somewhat
> lacking for anything other than listening to reasonably strong NDBs.
> It's selectivity is not great either, it's basically got AM receiver
> bandwidth which is too wide for serious NDB hunting. Finding the
> weak ones in under the strong ones requires an SSB filter as a
> minimum, preferably a CW filter.

Long, long ago, when dinosaurs ruled the earth, I started out with a BC-1206 too! They're a decent way to gain first exposure to LF... used to be dirt cheap, and they're tolerant of Newbie ignorance.

It was 10 years later that I learned the radio DOESN'T use 250 VDC on the plates! And it put up with that foulup without the slightest complaint!

You're right about sensitivity; when tied to a decent long wire, it'll hear it's share of NDBs, but it has a pretty poor noise figure.

Re. selectivity... IF filtering is gonna be hard to add; it's got an oddball IF frequency.

One thing I did; I hit the local Army Surplus Store for a so-called "beam filter". This is an audio filter that hooks into the headphone line. It has a switch that has 3 positions; RANGE (peaks 1050 Hz), VOICE (rejects 1050 Hz), and BOTH (filter out of the audio path). These filters were a couple of bucks back then (1960s).

Using the filter in the VOICE position, I was able to eliminate QRM from US based NDBs, and log my first beacon DX; the mighty NB at North Bay, Ontario, because the Canadian NDBs use a different modulation frequency!

> I doubt its worth trying to modify the frequency coverage-its
> probably best to leave it as it is and look around for a more modern
> general coverage receiver that covers LF and has better selectivity
> etc.

Agreed. One hundred percent.

It sounds to me like the best course of action here would be to get hold of a long wave Command receiver (I forget... is that a BC-453?).
It has it's own issues... but the selectivity is MUCH better (double tuned, 85 KHz IF cans), and after modification the noise figure is a whole lot better... and the tuning range is 190 - 550 KHz!

On top of everything else, the Command receiver even gives ya a BFO to play with... invaluable for slicing apart close together beacons for DX hunting.

> The key to good NDB hunting is the antenna. There's lots of info on
> the net for LF and VLF receiving antennas- the PA0RDT minwhip is a
> good one to start with. Get it up in the clear from nearby buildings
> and trees and it will perform very well. You might even hear some
> european BCB stations with it feeding your BC1206!
> Cheers
> DaveB, NZ

Yup, ya got it. The best antenna possible, and diligent suppression of local noise (NONE of those damned CFL light bulbs, or El Cheapo light dimmers!) will give ya some chance of digging out the weak ones.

Mr. T., W9LBB

289. Ft 243 sockets

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2009-11-15 19:50:18 UTC
From: brian f
Topic: 289 Message: 289

Just FYI, my new sockets are in production the 1st 100 sold in 15 minutes Friday. I have 5000 more coming this week. there is a face book account under my email account, and on Picasso

> http://picasaweb.google.com/sdm195411/FT243Sockets#

they are for sale 6 pieces for 7 dollars postpaid. I'm not making anything off these. after the cost of the mold, materials, labor, transport, postage, etc.

for this reason i would prefer not to use pay pal. checks to my QRZ address is the easiest for all.

thanks for the bandwidth Keith kf4tap.

290. 1st CENTENARY OF RADIOTELEGRAPHY IN THE PORTUGUESE NAVY

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2010-02-08 20:03:09 UTC
From: ct1gfq
Topic: 290 Message: 290

1st CENTENARY OF RADIOTELEGRAPHY IN THE PORTUGUESE NAVY

SPECIAL EVENT

2010 FEBRUARY 18th & 20th

The "Portuguese Navy Hamradio Club ☐ NRA" and the Navy itself feel proud to announce a double Special Event.

In this month of February we celebrate the 1st centenary since radiotelegraphy has begun naval official service in the navy.

To celebrate it, two Special Event Stations [CR5100AM and CR5100VZ] plus an onboard station CS5DFG will be active.

One Station located in Lisbon another Station located 15 miles south of Lisbon and the third one not much far from the others, will be active on the next February 18th and 20th in the period of [0900 ☐ 1900] UTC.

A Special QSL Card and a Special Award have been issued by the Navy and NRA to be addressed to all stations that contact one of these three stations in the dates and periods above.

Look for any of these stations on the bands and be awarded with a Special QSL Card and Award.

Contacting us or waiting another hundred years to do so, is your choice.

Hope to meet you on the air

The Chairman of Portuguese Navy Hamradio Club ☐ NRA

António Gamito

ct1czt@...

291. Cave Communications Using LF Frequencies

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2010-02-26 18:23:25 UTC
From: Adam E
Topic: 291 Message: 291

I was reading an article while I was looking around for radio projects for long wave, and I came across this article about a teenager who was said to be an inventor of something that people thought it could not be done. He used a huge loop antenna with a 2 way LF radio, probably not FCC approved or licensed, not part 15 to transmit a text signal deep in the holes of the Earth at 1000 feet. Main thing is that how did he get rights to text on LF when he is not licensed by the FCC, is he using the 160 kHz to 190 kHz band to send the signals back and forth? Or is he using VLF communications? I thought this might interest some long wave radio hobbyists and techs, and engineers. There is no project or schematic for this, so this maybe something he probably is used a dot matrix display to do it. Is there a text data project out there that uses a lowfers transmitter? Lets just hope he gets his FCC experimenters license and patents applied. Now I feel that there is more to be discovered today in digital LW technology.

http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=123116417

292. Re: [lowfrequency] Cave Communications Using LF Frequencies

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2010-02-26 19:16:12 UTC
From: Zack Widup
Topic: 291 Message: 292

The idea of texting in underground areas (caves, mines) may be new but the idea of communicating in those settings using LF/VLF frequencies is certainly not new.

Pioneering work in that area was done by Larry G. Stolarczyk of Stolar, Inc. in Raton, NM.

http://www.stolarhorizon.com/

He holds numerous patents for underground communication using LF/VHF frequencies. I built a similar system of cross-hole radar using LF frequencies (50 to 400 kHz) I use at work to help determine if an area of coal has been mined out.

73, Zack W9SZ

On Fri, Feb 26, 2010 at 12:23 PM, Adam E <gccengineering@yahoo.com> wrote:

>
>
>
> I was reading an article while I was looking around for radio projects for
> long wave, and I came across this article about a teenager who was said to
> be an inventor of something that people thought it could not be done. He
> used a huge loop antenna with a 2 way LF radio, probably not FCC approved or
> licensed, not part 15 to transmit a text signal deep in the holes of the
> Earth at 1000 feet. Main thing is that how did he get rights to text on LF
> when he is not licensed by the FCC, is he using the 160 kHz to 190 kHz band
> to send the signals back and forth? Or is he using VLF communications? I
> thought this might interest some long wave radio hobbyists and techs, and
> engineers. There is no project or schematic for this, so this maybe
> something he probably is used a dot matrix display to do it. Is there a text
> data project out there that uses a lowfers transmitter? Lets just hope he
> gets his FCC experimenters license and patents applied. Now I feel that
> there is more to be discovered today in digital LW technology.
>
> http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=123116417
>
>
>

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

293. Re: [lowfrequency] Cave Communications Using LF Frequencies

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2010-02-26 23:09:22 UTC
From: Facility 406 DM09
Topic: 291 Message: 293

The cave radio systems have been in use since the 60's or so. They operate around 8 KHz and are not regulated.

Kurt

----- Original Message -----
From: "Adam E" <gccengineering@...>

FCC approved or licensed, not part 15 to transmit a text signal deep in the holes of the Earth at 1000 feet. Main thing is that how did he get rights to text on LF when he is not licensed by the FCC, is he using the 160 kHz to 190 kHz band to send the signals back and forth? Or is he using VLF communications? I thought this might interest some long wave radio hobbyists and

294. portable screwdriver type antenna

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2010-03-01 22:59:16 UTC
From: Justin
Topic: 294 Message: 294

I'm curious to know if building a screwdriver type tunable antenna would be worth building for a portable VLF transceiver setup?

Justin

295. portable screwdriver type antenna

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2010-03-01 23:32:46 UTC
From: Justin
Topic: 294 Message: 295

I'm curious to know if building a screwdriver type tunable antenna would be worth building for a portable VLF transceiver setup?

Justin

296. Re: My Icom IC-R75 is now on e-bay

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2010-03-07 16:18:17 UTC
From: Robert S
Topic: 266 Message: 296

Hello,

Tried to look for your receiver, but could not. Would like to see this group offer their hardware to the group membership before posting to the world such on such sites such as ebay.

Thank you and 73

Robert

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "Al" <ndbdxr@...> wrote:
>
>
>
> Brand : ICOM
>
> I never thought I would put this up on e-bay...but here goes...the
> pinnacle of my radio collection:
>
> I simply don't use my R-75 anymore, and I haven't in a long time. So,
> I'm in the process of listing it on e-bay. My ID is Radioseller1.
> It has some of the BEST filters installed, the radio has been
> professionally modified for excellent LW sensitivity, The Icom power
> supply has been modified with capacitors for very low noise
> performance. It has two, high end CW filters installed and is
> basically a really serious LW/NDB DXing machine! PLEASE look at pics
> closely for details. Shortly after purchase, I had this radio sent to
> a Pro shop to do the LW mod. This makes it very sensitive at the
> Longwave range. This receiver is able to DX longwave stations VERY
> nicely! The winner of this auction will be pleasantly surprised at
> it's LW performance. You would have to spend multiple thousands of
> dollars to get performance like this.
> Kept in new condition, in a smoke-free home. Treated with kid gloves,
> looks like it was just pulled out of the orig. box (which is also
> included). User manuals, service manual incl.
> This radio has the Inrad #122 high-quality filter installed!
>

297. Looking for EXP1750a

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2010-03-07 16:26:30 UTC
From: Robert S
Topic: 297 Message: 297

Looking to purchase a Curry Communications EXP1750a. Very rare item, I have found.

If you have any other suggestions on very sensitive VLF receivers and a nice non-home brew transmitter, I would like to hear from you.

I would like to get my Lowfer beacon back on the air. I have an old transmitter, but do not want to use that.

The transmit frequency of the transmitter I would like to have the transmitter have the capability of changing frequencies by frequency synthesis.

73

298. Re: [lowfrequency] Looking for EXP1750a

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2010-03-07 16:49:56 UTC
From: Mike-WE0H
Topic: 297 Message: 298

Build a DDS VFO and key that signal into the 1w amp. Simple and low cost.

Mike
WE0H

Robert S wrote:
>
>
> Looking to purchase a Curry Communications EXP1750a. Very rare item, I
> have found.
>
> If you have any other suggestions on very sensitive VLF receivers and a
> nice non-home brew transmitter, I would like to hear from you.
>
> I would like to get my Lowfer beacon back on the air. I have an old
> transmitter, but do not want to use that.
>
> The transmit frequency of the transmitter I would like to have the
> transmitter have the capability of changing frequencies by frequency
> synthesis.
>
> 73

299. Re: [lowfrequency] Looking for EXP1750a

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2010-03-07 17:03:07 UTC
From: Robert Smith
Topic: 297 Message: 299

Mike,

My issue is time. I do not even have time for ham radio right now. I do not want to be an appliance Lowfer station, but my time limitation only allows that right now. I feel that if I can get something that does not take a lot of time to provide me the functionality, then that is great. Something on the air is better than nothing on the air.

I still have 4 towers, one convoluted loop and a vertical still to put on the air for ham radio.

73

From: Mike-WE0H <we0h@...>
To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sun, March 7, 2010 8:49:56 AM
Subject: Re: [lowfrequency] Looking for EXP1750a

Build a DDS VFO and key that signal into the 1w amp. Simple and low cost.

Mike
WE0H

Robert S wrote:
>
>
> Looking to purchase a Curry Communications EXP1750a. Very rare item, I
> have found.
>
> If you have any other suggestions on very sensitive VLF receivers and a
> nice non-home brew transmitter, I would like to hear from you.
>
> I would like to get my Lowfer beacon back on the air. I have an old
> transmitter, but do not want to use that.
>
> The transmit frequency of the transmitter I would like to have the
> transmitter have the capability of changing frequencies by frequency
> synthesis.
>
> 73

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

300. SImple AF ELF Detector?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2010-03-17 03:19:30 UTC
From: kitsaplorax
Topic: 300 Message: 300

Since whistlers and similar phenomenon were discovered in WWI by (so far as I understand) connecting either a loop or one ground and one antenna to sensitive crystal phones, could I get similar results by using the Left channel of a digital recorder as my ground and the right channel connected to a long wire antenna? I'd only be able to record the range of the digital recorder, ~ 120 HZ to 20 KHz, but, at least in principle, shouldn't this work?

73,

Gordon Cooper
Bremerton WA

301. Radio Shack May Merge w/Best Buy??????????

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2010-03-29 06:00:31 UTC
From: Paul Webster
Topic: 301 Message: 301

Hi All,
I used to shop at Radio Shack for kits/books/parts/radios & just to look around.

I know that Radio Shack doesn't really have anything much for the diehard radio enthusiast but I do hope that their product line, even such as it is, some how manages to stay intact when the new owner takes them over.

It will seem weird going to Best Buy to shop for cb, scanner. & shortwave radio gear tho.

We radio hobbyists need a place to go on a Saturday afternoon for a part like a fuse holder or some resisters/capacitors, that we don't want to wait for to come in the snail mail, for a project that we are working on that is almost completed & that we want to play w/after dinner.

I wonder what the new name will be--- BestBuy/Radio Shack, Best Radio Shack Buy, Best Radio Buy Shack, Best Buy/The Shack, Best The Buy Shack, Best The Shack Buy,
Best Shack Buy, Best Buy Shack.....?

I guess it is just the sign of the times.

73/75 de ka9jwx, Paul Lewis Webster

SKCC #5322

John 3:16

Proud member of the;

ARRL

NRA

Handihams

LiveFreeUSA

60 Plus (even tho I am younger then 60)

Long:-87.334L (-87*20'3"W)

Lat:41.4967N (41*29'48"N)

EN61HL

Merrillville, Indiana, 46410-3503, USA

;-)

--- On Fri, 3/26/10, ka9qjg1 <KA9QJG@...> wrote:

From: ka9qjg1 <KA9QJG@...>
Subject: [KA9QJGREPEATERS] Radio Shack next act could be a Sale
To: KA9QJGREPEATERS@yahoogroups.com
Date: Friday, March 26, 2010, 6:48 PM

FYI
Heard Maybe Merge with Best Buy
73 De Don KA9QJG
March 26, 2010, 11:52 a.m. EDTRadioShack's next act could be a saleCommentary: Electronics retailer reportedly looking for a way outBy MarketWatchNEW YORK (MarketWatch) -- Looks like someone may be about to put RadioShack out of its misery.Citing people close to the situation, a report in the New York Post said the consumer-electronics retailer (NYSE:RSH) is exploring strategic alternatives, including selling itself. Read New York Post story on RadioShack.Reuters
A shopper browses mobile phones displayed at a Radio Shack store.
The company has been shopping itself around as a leveraged buyout play to private-equity firms, or it may be considering a merger with Best Buy Co. (NYSE:BBY) , the largest U.S. electronics retailer, the report said.RadioShack shares soared in Friday morning trading.RadioShack Corp. struggled for years to right its business. The company was posting losses, declining sales and weak margins. It implemented a sweeping restructuring, shut underperforming stores, cut jobs and freshened merchandise and named turnaround expert and retail veteran Julian Day to run the company. Things seemed to be on the right track.Then the recession hit. It's tried to focus on its wireless offerings and promote its smaller size as a differentiator amid a sea of big-box stores. The Fort Worth, Texas-based company has done major store overhauls and last summer tried rebranding itself as "The Shack."RSH 23.65, +1.85, +8.49%
403020100050607080910Enough, already.Meanwhile, as RadioShack has floundered, Best Buy has thrived.Best Buy just posted a better-than-expected 37% jump in fiscal fourth-quarter profit as shoppers were willing to buy flat-panel televisions, notebook computers and mobile phones. Chief Executive Brian Dunn said gadgets like these are no longer considered discretionary. Read more about Best Buy's results.RadioShack has put up a mighty fight to keep the company strong, profitable and public. It might be time to try something new ... again.--

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

302. Fw: [UtilityHFradio] Release of book "Milspec radio equipment, Vol2"

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2010-04-09 03:28:20 UTC
From: Paul Webster
Topic: 302 Message: 302

Hello All,

Here is the mother of all monster kickbutt scanner sites for your enjoyment.

http://www.qsl.net/ka4pnv/scnn.htm

The link that helped me find the link above.

Utility radio] Release of book "Milspec radio equipment, Vol2"

http://www.ermag.com/index.cfm?v_link=product_detail&v_key=415

>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>   UtilityHFradio-fullfeatured@yahoogroups.com
>
>
> 73/75 de ka9jwx, Paul Lewis Webster
SKCC #5322
John 3:16
Proud member of the;
ARRL
NRA
Handihams
LiveFreeUSA
60 Plus (even tho I am younger then 60)
Long:-87.334L (-87*20'3"W)
Lat:41.4967N (41*29'48"N)
EN61HL
Merrillville, Indiana, 46410-3503, USA
;-)

303. Re: SImple AF ELF Detector?

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2010-08-30 00:23:20 UTC
From: Tom Adams, W9LBB / Gavno the Ugly
Topic: 300 Message: 303

Well... Yes and No.

I don't follow your use of the left channel as a "ground".

Much more effective would be to tie the ground (chassis) of the recorder to a REAL ground connection, and the antenna to either channel's input.

That setup, IN THEORY, would work... but not real well. In addition to the incoming VLF signals, you'd get a whole lot of VLF noise sources, especially 60 Hz hum, induced into the system by "ground loops".

One thing that would help out a LOT... take a small audio transformer. A junked, mil surplus 600 / 600 ohm would work nicely.

To one winding, connect the antenna. On the tother end of that winding, connect your ground.

The other winding goes to the input of your recorder.

That's nowhere near perfect... but it's a good starting point.

Good Luck,

Mr. T. W9LBB

--- In lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com, "kitsaplorax" <kitsaplorax@...> wrote:
>
> Since whistlers and similar phenomenon were discovered in WWI by (so far as I understand) connecting either a loop or one ground and one antenna to sensitive crystal phones, could I get similar results by using the Left channel of a digital recorder as my ground and the right channel connected to a long wire antenna? I'd only be able to record the range of the digital recorder, ~ 120 HZ to 20 KHz, but, at least in principle, shouldn't this work?
>
> 73,
>
> Gordon Cooper
> Bremerton WA
>

304. A VLF Nut who's about to shoot himself in the foot... ME !!!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2010-08-30 01:00:37 UTC
From: Tom Adams, W9LBB / Gavno the Ugly
Topic: 304 Message: 304

We're currently in the process of embarking on a Great Adventure... read that as "making a huge pain in the butt".

One of my great loves is my dogs. We normally have 2 or 3 Irish Setters hanging around the place. My Old Lady is heavily into the dog show game, so our pooches are either for the Conformation Ring or the Canine Agility Course; with an exceptional dog, BOTH.

We were down to two dogs after Queen Bozo I passed away... but in about January we got a new puppy!

"Ducky" (Note... I DID NOT NAME HIM!!! That moniker is the Old Lady's doing!!!) is growing like a weed, and he's looking like that "exceptional" dog you always want but seldom get; less than a year old, and he already has judging points toward his title of "Champion" in the conformation ring. He's also smarter than the average dog, and it looks like he's gonna be outstanding in the Agility ring, and is showing a lot of promise for Hunting Trials; at three months he literally BULLDOGGED a quail and held it down!

The down side... He's a digger. As in digging under the chain link fence around the acre where the dogs are put to play.

In addition, like ALL Irish Setters he's hard headed; he doesn't give up. He'll play it cool as long as you're closely supervising him, but turn your back for a minute and he's at it again.

The only solution to the problem that the Old Lady will accept... back up the chain link with an electronic dog fence that triggers a shock collar, at least until he gets the tunneling ideas out of his puppy mind.

Well... so far I have over 600 feet of electronic fence wire buried (I'll need close to 1000 total).

The manual for the electronic fence filled me with misgivings. When the gear is finally hooked up to the buried wire, the book suggests using a transistor radio, tuned to the AM broadcast band, as a troubleshooting tool to locate the wire!!!

Good Gawd... and I've been slowly hunting down and getting rid of RF noise sources around here for the last 15 years...

I called the 1-800 technical support phone number for the fence maker and wound up talking to a very nice, but totally clueless young lady who, only after repeated insistance, reluctantly put me in touch with one of the company's technicians.

A nice guy... but what he told me is depressing.

This particular system generates a pulse modulated signal at a carrier frequency of 8 KHz !!!

I already knew the answer, but I just had to ask him about harmonic radiation.

"It's BAD... VERY bad" he said. "I looked at it on a spectrum analyzer once... the screen lit up like a Christmas tree all the way to 2 MHz before it began to die down a few DB".

And the buried "antenna" for this mess is a loop of wire around the periphery of MY antenna farm... err... back yard!

Hopefully... now and then I'll be able to turn this atrocity OFF for an evening, but that's the only hope I have at this point.

TO BE CONTINUED...

Mr. T. W9LBB

305. EXTRA GRIMETON RADIO/SAQ TRANSMISSION

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2011-08-01 19:55:09 UTC
From: Clive
Topic: 305 Message: 305

Just received from Lars Kålland:-

Quote/...

There will be a special transmission with the Alexanderson alternator on 17,2 kHz on Friday, August 5th, 2011 at 09:00 UTC.

Start up and tuning from about 08:30 UTC.

This time we do not require any QSL-reports and will not verify.

Regards.

SM6NM/Lars

.../unquote.

73's
Clive
GW4EYO

312. SAQ transmission Christmas Eve, December 24th, 2011

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2011-12-18 16:54:47 UTC
From: Clive
Topic: 312 Message: 312

Recently received email from Lars Kålland:-

SAQ TRANSMISSION ON CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24TH, 2011

There will be, as before, a transmission with the Alexanderson 200 kW alternator on VLF 17.2 kHz from Grimeton Radio/SAQ on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th, 2011.

The message transmission will take place at 08:00 UTC. The transmitter will be tuned up from around 07:30 UTC.

There will be no activity on amateur radio frequencies with the call SK6SAQ this time.

QSL-reports are kindly received:

- E-mail to: info@alexander.n.se

- or fax to: +46-340-674195

- or via: SM bureau

- or direct by mail to:

Alexander - Grimeton Veteranradios Vaenner,
Radiostationen,
Grimeton 72
S-432 98 GRIMETON

SWEDEN

Also read our web site: www.alexander.n.se

Yours

Lars Kalland
SM6NM

++++++++++

73's
Clive
GW4EYO

313. RE: [lowfrequency] SAQ transmission Christmas Eve, December 24th, 2011

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2011-12-18 16:57:21 UTC
From: Clive S Carver
Topic: 312 Message: 313

TEST REPLY ☐ PLEASE IGNORE

From: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com [mailto:lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Clive
Sent: 18 December 2011 16:55
To: lowfrequency@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [lowfrequency] SAQ transmission Christmas Eve, December 24th, 2011

Recently received email from Lars Kålland:-

SAQ TRANSMISSION ON CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24TH, 2011

There will be, as before, a transmission with the Alexanderson 200 kW alternator on VLF 17.2 kHz from Grimeton Radio/SAQ on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th, 2011.

The message transmission will take place at 08:00 UTC. The transmitter will be tuned up from around 07:30 UTC.

There will be no activity on amateur radio frequencies with the call SK6SAQ this time.

QSL-reports are kindly received:

- E-mail to: info@... <mailto:info%40alexander.n.se>

- or fax to: +46-340-674195

- or via: SM bureau

- or direct by mail to:

Alexander - Grimeton Veteranradios Vaenner,
Radiostationen,
Grimeton 72
S-432 98 GRIMETON

SWEDEN

Also read our web site: www.alexander.n.se

Yours

Lars Kalland
SM6NM

++++++++++

73's
Clive
GW4EYO

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

314. OT: PRINTER IN A SW RADIO?!?!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2012-06-12 23:59:37 UTC
From: Paul Webster
Topic: 314 Message: 314

The discontinued Sony CRF-V21 World band Shortwave Radio crf-v21 is an interesting piece of gear.

It is a shortwave radio that was designed to receive G.O.E.S. Satellite signals on 1.6 Gc & NOAA Satellite signals from 137 Mc to 141 Mc.

http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/portable/crfv21.yahoomail

I wonder how well it worked.

Maybe not to well & maybe that's why I never heard of a printer in a sw radio that also received satellite signals on VHF & microwave.

I wonder if there are any still around.

73/75 de ka9jwx, Paul Lewis Webster
SKCC #5322
John 3:16
Long:-87.334L (-87*20'3"W)
Lat:41.4967N (41*29'48"N)
EN61HL
Merrillville, Indiana, 46410-3503, USA
;-)

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

315. Re: whats up

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2012-07-07 14:28:38 UTC
From: Kevinr8701
Topic: 315 Message: 315

I guess your job is going well. I wanted to tell you about a superb job opportunity in locality.
We have had many of our members take this opportunity and I am getting some perfect stories.

The local paper has story featuring one of our members, Kelly R.. It will also you all you all the important info you need to get started. The link is http://pantofle.i8p.eu/economycheck/Brian_Martin66/?a=204200&s= and I think the article will be featured on the home page until tomorrow.

Good Luck...

Yours truly

316. SUPER Hamfest Score!!!

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2012-07-31 22:58:48 UTC
From: Tom Adams, W9LBB / Gavno the Ugly
Topic: 316 Message: 316

At this year's South Milwaukee Hamfest, a couple of VERY unexpected bits of LF / VLF gear surfaced and followed me home! :o)

As many here know, the ITU Conference FINALLY granted the first official low frequency ham band (492 - 497 KHz). The scramble is already on for suitable transmitting equipment, anticipating the day that the FCC opens the band to US hams.

I've got an old ART-13 aircraft transmitter with the LF oscillator plug-in and external tank coil, but I'm not real enthused about the idea of using that; output powers are pretty small (10 - 20 watts).

What turned up at South Milwaukee is the basis for building something much more modern and powerful.

There is a system called PLC (Power Line Carrier) communications. An RF carrier in the 10 - 500 KHz range is impressed on high tension lines to allow voice or FSK data communication between power company sites. It's commonly used for remote monitoring or control of power line equipment.

The neat thing about the system from an engineering standpoint is that the parallel conductors of a high tension line act like a 2 wire transmission line, effectively cancelling most radiation beyond the line itself.

Such an esoteric system need specialized test gear to keep it running; gear that bought new is expensive as hell because it's made and designed for such a small market.

An outfit called Signalcrafters specializes in this equipment. Two hunks of their stuff showed up at South Milwaukee. BOTH look like they've had, at most, very light use.

First is a Model 10 High Level RF Source. This thing is a solid state, synthesized 2 watt signal generator that tunes 100 Hz - 500 KHz. It generates FSK and keyed off/on CW carrier. It further has a frequency sweeping mode.

Two watts isn't much... but it makes a GREAT exciter for driving a much bigger FET amplifier!

Second is a Model 70 VSWR Bridge / Dummy Load. This isn't a simple monimatch type reflectometer; physically, that would be HUGE for this frequency, and not very portable. Instead, it uses an analog computer to give SWR readings. It should make antenna design and adjustment a snap, just like it makes tuning high tension line signal injectors and isolation traps easy.

Besides being the basis of a new transmitter and antenna system for the new 490 KHz band, the Model 10 alone would make an excellent transmitter for the 160 - 190 KHz LOWFER band.

As often happens at hamfests, the prices were very reasonable; I snapped them up immediately at $100.00 for the pair! The only other cost so far has been for a new set of rechargable batteries for the Model 10 (the old ones were date coded 1996).

Stay tuned... I'm looking at LF power amplifier designs now. I'm thinking roughly 500 watts of carrier.

322. FW: Bob Combs

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2013-06-16 20:47:02 UTC
From: Bob Combs
Topic: 322 Message: 322

How are you?

Bob Combs

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

323. FW: Grimeton Radio/SAQ transmission Sunday, June 30, 2013

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2013-06-23 13:49:30 UTC
From: Clive S Carver
Topic: 323 Message: 323

Received from Lars Kålland re Grimeton Radio's transmission next Sunday.

Regards

Clive

GW4EYO

From: Lars Kålland [mailto:sm6nm@...]
Sent: 23 June 2013 13:02
To: A/Lars Kålland
Subject: Grimeton Radio/SAQ transmission Sunday, June 30, 2013

REMINDER!

We will remind you of the Grimeton Radio/SAQ transmissions on 17.2 kHz, CW, with the Alexanderson alternator on Sunday, June 30, 2013, ☐Alexanderson Day", at 09:00 UTC and 11:00 UTC.

We will start tuning up some 30 minutes before message.

The radio station is open to visitors.

There will be activity on amateur radio frequencies with the call "SK6SAQ" from 08:00 to 09:00 UTC and 10:00 to 11:00 UTC.

Any of following frequencies:

- 14.035 kHz CW

- 14.215 kHz SSB

From 07:00 UTC also on:

- 3.755 kHz SSB

QSL-reports are kindly received:

- E-mail to: <mailto:info@...> info@...

- or fax to: +46-340-674195

- or via: SM bureau

- or direct by mail to: Alexander - Grimeton Veteranradios Vaenner,

Radiostationen

Grimeton 72

SE-432 98 GRIMETON, SWEDEN (NB: new address)

Also read our web site: www.alexander.n.se <http://www.alexander.n.se/>

Yours

Lars Kalland

SM6NM

sm6nm@...

lars.kalland@...

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

324. FW: Grimeton Radio/SAQ transmission - correction

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2013-06-23 14:47:14 UTC
From: Clive S Carver
Topic: 324 Message: 324

Just received updated transmission times for SAQ from Lars

Cheers!

Clive

GW4EYO

From: Lars Kålland [mailto:sm6nm@...]
Sent: 23 June 2013 15:26
To: A/Lars Kålland
Subject: Grimeton Radio/SAQ transmission - correction

(Corrected issue)

REMINDER!

We will remind you of the Grimeton Radio/SAQ transmissions on 17.2 kHz, CW, with the Alexanderson alternator on Sunday, June 30, 2013, ☐Alexanderson Day", at 09:00 UTC and 12:00 UTC.

We will start tuning up some 30 minutes before message.

The radio station is open to visitors.

There will be activity on amateur radio frequencies with the call "SK6SAQ" from 08:00 to 09:00 UTC and 10:00 to 12:00 UTC.

Any of following frequencies:

- 14.035 kHz CW

- 14.215 kHz SSB

From 07:00 UTC also on:

- 3.755 kHz SSB

QSL-reports are kindly received:

- E-mail to: <mailto:info@alexander.n.se> info@...

- or fax to: +46-340-674195

- or via: SM bureau

- or direct by mail to: Alexander - Grimeton Veteranradios Vaenner,

Radiostationen

Grimeton 72

SE-432 98 GRIMETON, SWEDEN (NB: new address)

Also read our web site: www.alexander.n.se <http://www.alexander.n.se/>

Yours

Lars Kalland

SM6NM

sm6nm@...

lars.kalland@...

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

325. SAQ 17.2 kHz Transmission - Christmas Eve, Tuesday, 24th December

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2013-12-15 10:47:18 UTC
From: Clive S Carver
Topic: 325 Message: 325

SAQ TRANSMISSION ON CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2013

There will be a transmission with the Alexanderson 200 kW alternator on VLF 17.2 kHz from Grimeton Radio/SAQ on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24th, 2013.

The message transmission will take place at 08:00 UTC. The transmitter will be tuned up from around 07:30 UTC.

There will be no activity on amateur radio frequencies with the call SK6SAQ this time.

The radio station is open to visitors.

QSL-reports are kindly received:

- E-mail to: info@...

- or via: SM bureau

- or direct by mail to:

Alexander - Grimeton Veteranradios Vaenner,

Radiostationen, Grimeton 72

S-432 98 GRIMETON

S W E D E N

Also read our web site:

www.alexander.n.se <http://www.alexander.n.se/>

Yours

Lars Kålland

SM6NM

326. SAQ 17.2 kHz Transmission Wednesday 2nd July 2014 from 14:00 UTC

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2014-07-01 18:10:14 UTC
From: Clive S Carver
Topic: 326 Message: 326

From the Grimeton Radio SAQ website

http://alexander.n.se/in-english/saq-transmission/

Extra transmission on Wednesday, July 2, 2014

An extra transmission will be performed on Wednesday, July 2, at 14:30 UTC
to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the World Heritage appointment of SAQ.
We start the transmitter at 14:00 UTC and a test signal will be transmitted
from about 14:10 UTC. The frequency is 17.2 kHz CW.

We do not require any QSL-reports on this SAQ transmission and will not
verify.

73's

Clive

GW4EYO

327. 17.2 kHz SAQ transmission 2015-06-28

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2015-06-15 13:48:25 UTC
From: Clive S Carver
Topic: 327 Message: 327

The following email received from Lars Kalland regarding the next SAQ transmission.

73's

Clive

GW4EYO

This e-mail and any attachments may contain confidential and/or privileged material; it is for the intended addressee(s) only. If you are not a named addressee, you must not use, retain or disclose such information. Whilst outgoing e-mails are scanned for viruses, Clive Carver cannot guarantee that this e-mail or any attachment(s) are free from viruses.

From: Lars Kalland [mailto:lars.kalland@...]
Sent: 15 June 2015 14:32
To: Lars Kalland
Subject: SAQ transmission 2015-06-28

REMINDER!

We will remind you of the Grimeton Radio/SAQ transmission on VLF frequency 17.2 kHz, CW, with the Alexanderson 200 kW alternator on "ALEXANDERSON DAY", Sunday, June 28th, at 09:00 UTC and 12:00 UTC (11:00 and 14:00 SVT).

We will start tuning up some 30 minutes before the message.

There will be activity on amateur radio frequencies during the day with the call SK6SAQ.

Frequencies:

- 7,035 CW or 14,035 CW

- 3,755 SSB

- 145,700/145,100 VHF FM repeater (R-4/RV-56)

QSL to SK6SAQ via SM bureau.

QSL-reports on SAQ transmissions are kindly received:

- E-mail to: <mailto:info@...> info@...

- or via: SM bureau

- or direct by mail to: Alexander - Grimeton Veteranradios Vaenner,

Radiostationen Grimeton 72

SE-432 98 GRIMETON

S W E D E N

The radio station will be open to visitors from 08:00 to 14:00 UTC (10:00 to 16:00 SVT).

Welcome!

Also read our web site: www.alexander.n.se <http://www.alexander.n.se/>

Yours

Lars Kalland

SM6NM

sm6nm@...

lars.kalland@...

328. 73.25 kHz

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2015-09-11 20:57:34 UTC
From: Clive S Carver
Topic: 328 Message: 328

Due to a network psu which supplies my SDR-IQ receiver fault, I have not been monitoring VLF or LF for the last few weeks.

Now back up and running, I have noticed the return of transmissions on 73.25 kHz which used to be MTO21 from Rugby many years ago. Then MTO21 was within the UK 73 kHz LF Band which existed 29th April 1996 to 30th June 2003 with a 1 watt ERP limit.

Looking at Peter DF3LP's excellent Kiel Longwave Monitor at www.df3lp.de <http://www.df3lp.de/> I can see some low power testing on 24th August with H24 operation earlier this week.

At Hawarden, North Wales 53-11-44N 3-01-42W Signal strengths of 71.25 kHz -36dB, MSF 60.0 kHz -32 dB, 51.95 kHz -44 dB, DCF77 77.5 kHz -52 dB and 81.0 kHz -24 dB.

Likely Tx sites for 73.25 kHz being Crimond, Inskip or Anthorn?

73's

Clive

GW4EYO

329. SAQ transmission on Christmas Eve Dec 24th 2015

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2015-12-12 14:25:53 UTC
From: Clive S Carver
Topic: 329 Message: 329

Received the following this morning regarding SAQ 17.2 kHz Christmas Eve transmission from Lars Kalland.

73's

Clive GW4EYO

From: Lars Kalland [mailto:lars.kalland@...]
Sent: 12 December 2015 09:27
To: AAA Lars Kalland
Subject: SAQ transmission on Christmas Eve Dec 24th 2015

TRADITIONALLY SAQ TRANSMISSION ON CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24TH 2015

It is now 10 years since our first Christmas Eve transmissions started.

There will be, as earlier, a transmission with the Alexanderson alternator on VLF 17.2 kHz CW from Grimeton Radio/SAQ in the very early morning on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th 2015.

A message will be transmitted at 08:00 UTC. The transmitter will be tuned up from around 07:30 UTC.

There will be no activity on amateur radio frequencies with the call SK6SAQ this time because the radio room is redecorated and cannot be used.

QSL-reports on SAQ transmission are kindly received:

- E-mail to: info@...

- or via: SM bureau

- or direct by mail to: Alexander - Grimeton Veteranradios Vaenner,

Radiostationen Grimeton 72

SE-432 98 GRIMETON

S W E D E N

Also read our web site: www.alexander.n.se

The radiostation will be open to visitors.

WELCOME!

Yours

SM6NM/Lars

330. SAQ 17.2 kHz Alexanderson Day transmission on Sunday 3rd July

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2016-06-20 10:49:36 UTC
From: Clive Carver
Topic: 330 Message: 330

Received the following message this morning regarding SAQ 17.2 kHz Alexanderson Day transmission on Sunday 3rd July from Lars Kalland.

REMINDER

OF GRIMETON RADIO/SAQ TRANSMISSION

The annual transmission on "Alexanderson Day" with the Alexanderson alternator on VLF 17.2 kHz with the call SAQ will take place Sunday, July 3rd, 2016 at 09:00 UTC (tuning up from after 08:30 UTC) and will be repeated at 12:00 UTC (tuning up from after 11:30 UTC).

Amateur Radio Station with the call "SK6SAQ" will be QRV on the following frequencies:

- 7.035 kHz CW or

- 14.035 kHz CW or

- 21.035 kHz CW or

- 3.755 kHz SSB

Two stations will be on the air most of the time.

QSL-reports to SAQ and SK6SAQ are kindly received via:

- E-mail to: <mailto:info@...> info@...

- or via: SM bureau

- or direct by mail to: Alexander - Grimeton Veteranradios Vaenner,

Radiostationen

Grimeton 72

SE-432 98 ROLFSTORP

S W E D E N

Also read our website: www.alexander.n.se <http://www.alexander.n.se/>

The station will be open to visitors.

WELCOME!

Yours

Lars Kalland

SM6NM

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331. SAQ 17.2 kHz Alexanderson Day transmission on Sunday 3rd July

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2016-07-02 12:15:24 UTC
From: Clive Carver
Topic: 330 Message: 331

This e-mail and any attachments may contain confidential and/or privileged material; it is for the intended addressee(s) only. If you are not a named addressee, you must not use, retain or disclose such information. Whilst outgoing e-mails are scanned for viruses, Clive Carver cannot guarantee that this e-mail or any attachment(s) are free from viruses.

REMINDER

OF GRIMETON RADIO/SAQ TRANSMISSION

Received the following message recently from Lars Kalland regarding SAQ 17.2 kHz Alexanderson Day transmission on Sunday 3rd July.

The annual transmission on "Alexanderson Day" with the Alexanderson alternator on VLF 17.2 kHz with the call SAQ will take place Sunday, July 3rd, 2016 at 09:00 UTC (tuning up from after 08:30 UTC) and will be repeated at 12:00 UTC (tuning up from after 11:30 UTC).

Amateur Radio Station with the call "SK6SAQ" will be QRV on the following frequencies:

- 7.035 kHz CW or - 14.035 kHz CW or - 21.035 kHz CW or - 3.755 kHz SSB

Two stations will be on the air most of the time.

QSL-reports to SAQ and SK6SAQ are kindly received via:

- E-mail to: <mailto:info@...> info@...

- or via: SM bureau

- or direct by mail to:

Alexander - Grimeton Veteranradios Vaenner,

Radiostationen

Grimeton 72

SE-432 98 ROLFSTORP

S W E D E N

Website: www.alexander.n.se <http://www.alexander.n.se/>

The station will be open to visitors.

332. SAQ 17.2 kHz Alexanderson Day transmission 0900UTC Sunday 3rd July

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2016-07-03 09:45:20 UTC
From: Clive Carver
Topic: 332 Message: 332

100% copy of SAQ's transmission here in Hawarden north Wales, UK.

SAQ showing as -56 dB the same as UK's 50.95 KHz GYW1 which both stronger
than DCF77 on 77.5 kHz which showing as -60 dB.

RF-Space SDR-IQ receiver and PA0RDT antenna.

73's Clive GW4EYO

333. Christmas Eve SAQ 17.2 kHz Transmission on Saturday 24th December at 08:00 UTC

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2016-12-23 10:11:33 UTC
From: Clive Carver
Topic: 333 Message: 333

From http://alexander.n.se/osaekerhet-kring-utsaendning-paa-julafton/

We are now planning for the traditional transmission with the Alexanderson 200 kW alternator on VLF 17.2 kHz on the morning of Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24. The message transmission will take place at 08:00 UTC and the transmitter will be tuned up from around 07:30 UTC.

Since the plant is old, there is always the risk that the transmission will be cancelled with short notice. An updated information will be published on our website www.alexander.n.se <http://alexander.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=521e9c51318e4c7f70e1e6b56&id=6237c642dd&e=5e17444cb0> .

NOTE: There will be live video streaming from the transmission on www.alexander.n.se

There will be activity on Amateur Radio Frequencies with the call SK6SAQ.
Frequencies: - 7,035 CW or 14,035 CW

QSL-reports on the SAQ transmission or SK6SAQ are kindly received via:
- E-mail to: info@...
- or via: SM bureau
- or direct by mail to:
Alexander - Grimeton Veteranradios Vaenner,
Radiostationen Grimeton 72
SE-432 98 GRIMETON
S W E D E N

The radio station will be open to visitors.

Welcome!

Yours
SM6NM/Lars

334. Christmas Eve SAQ 17.2 kHz Transmission on Saturday 24th December at 08:00 UTC

Yahoo group: lowfrequency
Date: 2016-12-23 10:22:55 UTC
From: clive@...
Topic: 333 Message: 334

From http://alexander.n.se/osaekerhet-kring-utsaendning-paa-julafton/ http://alexander.n.se/osaekerhet-kring-utsaendning-paa-julafton/

We are now planning for the traditional transmission with the Alexanderson 200 kW alternator on VLF 17.2 kHz on the morning of Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24. The message transmission will take place at 08:00 UTC and the transmitter will be tuned up from around 07:30 UTC.

Since the plant is old, there is always the risk that the transmission will be cancelled with short notice. An updated information will be published on our website www.alexander.n.se http://www.alexander.n.se/.

NOTE: There will be live video streaming from the transmission on www.alexander.n.se http://www.alexander.n.se/ There will be activity on Amateur Radio Frequencies with the call SK6SAQ. Frequencies: – 7,035 CW or 14,035 CW QSL-reports on the SAQ transmission or SK6SAQ are kindly received via:

– E-mail to: info@alexander.n.se mailto:info@alexander.n.se

– or via: SM bureau

– or direct by mail to:

Alexander – Grimeton Veteranradios Vaenner, Radiostationen Grimeton 72

SE-432 98 GRIMETON

S W E D E N

The radio station will be open to visitors.

Welcome!

Yours

SM6NM/Lars

Clive

GW4EYO